

SKETCHES
OF *W. Costigan*
SOCIETY AND MANNERS
IN
PORTUGAL.

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS
FROM
ARTHUR WILLIAM COSTIGAN, Esq;
LATE A CAPTAIN OF THE IRISH BRIGADE,
IN THE SERVICE OF SPAIN,
TO HIS BROTHER IN LONDON.
IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

Rara temporum felicitate, ubi sentire quæ velis,
et quæ sentias dicere liceat.

TACIT.

Contrasted faults thro' all their manners reign;
Though poor, luxurious; though submissive, vain;
Though grave, yet trifling; zealous, yet untrue;
And even in penance, planning sins anew.

GOLDSMITH'S TRAVELLER.

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128



C O N T E N T S

OF THE

SECOND VOLUME.

LETTER XXV. p. 1.

SOME account of Lisbon.—Of the Marquis of Pombal, and the Silk Manufactory.

LETTER XXVI. p. 13.

Some account of Doctor Duncan.—A Letter from Donna Lucretia to Lord Freeman, with his Answer.

LETTER XXVII. p. 26.

Farther account of Lisbon; and of Colonel Priolet, Sir Philip Welding and Family.

LETTER XXVIII. p. 37.

Dinner at the British Consul General's in Lisbon.—A Visit to the Marquis of Pancorvo's Family.

LETTER XXIX. p. 50.

A Letter from John Carlos at Porto, to Captain Costigan.—The Consul of Porto's Opinion concerning Religion.

LETTER XXX. p. 70.

Christening of Count O—h—n.—Characters of some of the Courtiers.

LETTER XXXI. p. 89.

A Visit to the Church of St. Roque, to see the Court kiss the Lord's Feet.

LETTER XXXII. p. 100.

The Viscount of Villa Nova's Levée.

LETTER XXXIII. p. 113.

Some account of the four Suitors to the Marquis of Pancorvo's Daughter.

LETTER XXXIV. p. 125.
The Viscount of Villa Nova's Levée.

LETTER XXXV. p. 147.
The Viscount of Villa Nova's Levée.

LETTER XXXVI. p. 164.
Imprisonment of Count Baldiorra, and Discovery of a Plot.—Death of Sir Philip Welding.

LETTER XXXVII. p. 177.
A Visit to Cintra and Oeyras, with some account of two Officers at this last place.

LETTER XXXVIII. p. 190.
An attempt to murder Captain Costigan.—An unexpected Visit of two Principals of the Patriarchal Church.

LETTER XXXIX. p. 210.
Confusion in the Marquis of Pancorvo's Family, owing to Doctor Duncan's mistaken zeal.

LETTER XL. p. 231.
Continuation of the same subject, and every thing finally adjusted.

LETTER XLI. p. 249.
Account of a Theatrical Representation.—The whole Court ordered into nine days Mourning.

LETTER XLII. p. 269.
A Party to dine at the Marquis of Pancorvo's country-house.—Discourse of a Sailor to St. Anthony.

LETTER XLIII. p. 269.
Marriages of Lord Freeman and Donna Lucretia, and of Colonel Priolet and Miss Welding.—General observations on the state of the country.

LETTER XLIV. p. 310.
Continuation and conclusion of the same subject.

SKETCHES
OF
SOCIETY AND MANNERS
IN
PORTUGAL.

L E T T E R XXV.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

UNTIL I had some time to look over and examine this wide extended straggling city, and to form some connected ideas of its situation, it would have been idle to attempt a description of it; and even now it must be but in general terms: Imagine to yourself an extent of shore, upon a spacious river, capable of receiving every sort of shipping, and pouring its waters immediately into the Atlantic Ocean, with regard

Vol. II.

B

to

to its local position, far preferable to every other on the Continent of Europe, for the most extended traffic with the whole Continent of America ; if we add to this, the salubrity of the climate, the infinite variety of fruits, and indeed almost of every desirable produce of Nature this country is capable of yielding, even when cultivated with the smallest care, one is perfectly at a loss to determine which of the circumstances to admire the most : I mean, how much Nature has done to render the inhabitants of this country happy, or how little they have done for themselves. You are not, therefore, to expect from me a formal and regular description of the city of Lisbon, nor indeed of any thing else, as I have hinted to you before, more especially as there are other concerns I consider of a more intimate and pressing nature to give you an account of.

If we reckon from the villages of Pedrouços and Belem upon the shore below the city, to which they are now entirely joined by a continued series of buildings, Lisbon reaches along the beach up towards Maravila, from six to seven English miles, with a great variety of breadths and distances inwards to the country upon the high
grounds,

grounds, which rise almost immediately behind in most places, where they are not divided and separated by the vallies which run immediately between them, and of which the principal is that in which stands the finest street, composed entirely of new buildings, called the *Rua Augusta*, which is overlooked on one side by the Castle of Lisbon, and on the other, by a quarter of the city called the *Bairro Alto*, built on a very elevated situation, affording an endless variety of prospects from the different houses, according to their heights and various positions. Those who are fond of romantic comparisons say, this city is built like Rome, and stands on seven hills; but I have not yet been able to trace any thing that could enable me to justify the comparison. One thing certain is, that all the high commanding grounds in or about the city, are entirely occupied with Chapels, Churches, and large extensive Convents, which, with their kitchen gardens, vineyards and orchards, occupy a fifth, or at least a sixth part of the whole city, and whose numerous and idle inhabitants are entirely supplied and afterwards supported at the expence of the rest.

All the streets, laid out and built since the earthquake on the 1st of November, 1755, are straight, regular, and mostly spacious, running at right angles to each other; but the houses are still generally too high in proportion to the width of the streets; on which account, the falling of the houses upon the first great shock, must inevitably bury under their ruins those who shall be able to escape into the street. This reflection most probably escaped the attention of the Marquis of Pombal, and his Architect, Mr. Mardel, when they laid out the general plan of their new city, which I have had a peep of since I came here, and which will now, most likely, not be carried any farther into execution; not on account of its imperfections, (if it has any) but purely because it originated under the former Minister; thus much is certain, that immediately after the accession of the present Queen, a stop was put to the public buildings which were going on in the city, inasmuch that one part of the great square, where stands an equestrian statue of the late King, which I may have occasion to mention hereafter, remains yet unfinished, and the masons and workmen were set to work and employed in building a new Convent of a great extent, and at a
vast

vast expence, which is now well advanced, and is intended for the reception of Nuns, and which the present pious Queen is to dedicate to the Heart of Jesus; and for this piece of new devotion she already obtained a Bull from the present Pope, Pius the Sixth, for an additional Holiday on the 6th of June yearly; and this she applied for and had established through the kingdom the very first year of her reign. Now, I think it may safely be concluded, that no additional Convents ever entered into the late Minister's plan of the new city; and in proof of this, I observed in the plan I saw, that the great avenue or road leading from the city to the new Palace, which was laid out on a fine commanding ground called the *Campo d' Ourique*, runs exactly across the site where this new Convent stands, and equally across the present Cemetery of the English, which lays between the Convent and where the new Palace was to have been built.

One reflection I think here presents itself, equally true as it is mortifying to human vanity, and to the value which such trifling short-lived beings as we are, ought to put upon all sublunary things.

The

The Marquis of Pombal, who was, without doubt, a character so far superior to any of his own countrymen, as to admit of no comparison between them and him, was excessively enamoured of the new plan for the rebuilding of the city, and after the expulsion of the Jesuits from Portugal and their destruction, which he was extremely instrumental in bringing about, by means of his friend Ganganelli, it may be truly said to have been his hobby-horse, on which he lavished money, and spared no expence, in making the different accommodations for the Royal Exchange, the apartments, store-houses, &c. &c. for the new Custom-house, and all the other tribunals and seats of justice, commodious and magnificent: These were mostly to be contained in the great Square above-mentioned, the name of which he changed from *Terreiro do Passo*, (the ground of the Palace) which it had before the earthquake, as the Palace then stood on one side of it, to that of *Praça de Commercio*, (the place of trade or commerce) which has obtained ever since; this Square he considered as the great residential theatre of the whole trade of Portugal with foreign nations, and with their own possessions in South America and the Indies; and also where all the great causes in civil and criminal

criminal justice, were to be heard and ultimately decided. It was therefore no wonder he directed a great part of his attention to the compleating and embellishing of this Square, as well as of the other principal parts of the new City, so immediately connected with it; even to the overlooking many other new manufactories of different articles he himself had set up, in order to prevent as much as possible the call for the same articles from abroad, which made the balance always so much against them, and carried so much of the current coin out of the country. Among other circumstances, I have been told of an anecdote, which would appear very singular, at least any where else, though not so here, where there seems to be such a congregaté of singularities of every kind, as I have never met with any where else. There is, among others, a considerable silk manufactory long established at Lisbon, and consequently a severe prohibition of any importation of that article from abroad, and yet I am assured, that during the late Minister's administration, it happened oftener than once the looms were stopped merely through the want of the pecuniary supply to keep them agoing, insomuch that the great warehouse of the manufactory

tory was often without goods to answer the public demand, and the Minister has been under the necessity of ordering privately, and in contravention to his own law, silks to be smuggled from the French ships in the river in the night-time, and deposited in the warehouse, and afterwards sold to the public, as the produce of his own manufactory, and that too with considerable advantage to the parties concerned, as it had always been found impossible to furnish the silks manufactured in the country, so cheap as those of equal goodness could be had from France: the same indeed holds true with regard to the produce of every other manufactory established in this country. How must it therefore grate the feelings of the late Minister in his retreat, to be informed, that his projected re-edification of the city is put a stop to, and part of his plan actually reversed, which is evident by the position of this new Convent, besides other steps already taken to destroy the whole symmetry of the plan he had so fondly meditated? One consolation however he is certain of, proceeding from the assurance he may have that the immediate successor to the present Minister will be as careful to substitute his own plans, in the place of those now adopted; and as it is no
less

less reasonable to conclude the same thing will happen at the change of every succeeding despot, the effects of such a succession of crude, unconnected and opposite ideas, will be but too evident in the confused and irregular appearance the rising city will be made to take.

Another circumstance only I shall mention, and then I have done with this irregular desultory sort of letter, in order to attend to what I am to consider as my more immediate duty, according to the tenor of your directions for my correspondence, which are, to pay much more regard to men than to things, in the accounts I give you of my travels.

In perusing the history of this country, I find that, on different occasions, their Kings and the Court have been obliged to quit Lisbon, on account of the plague raging in the city, and to take up their residence at Almeirim, Santarem, Salvaterra, or some other hunting seat belonging to the Royal family; this being a matter of uniform historical fact, not to be called in question, I have been much puzzled how to account for such a phenomenon, in a country, the air of which is in every part so pure and salubrious, and most particu-

larly in Lisbon and the districts near it; but since my arrival here, I think I have been able to account for it, in consequence of some observations I have made. I shall leave you to judge how far I may be in the right.

From the information I have gathered, both in conversation and by reading, as well as from observing the arrangement, disposition and construction of the streets and houses, in some parts of the city, still remaining such as the whole city was before the earthquake of 1755, I am convinced it did not then take up more than half the ground it now covers, at the same time that the number of inhabitants was nearly equal at both periods; and, during some centuries of the first existence of Portugal as an independent state, Lisbon must have still been more confined in extent, and was entirely surrounded with a high wall flanked with towers, as all the great Moorish cities in Spain at those times were; and, from inspection at present, I can conceive nothing more abominable nor worse contrived than the excessive narrowness of the streets, their sudden and irregular turnings and windings, their great declivity, unfit for any wheel carriage, and the violent as-
cents

cents and descents, almost every where and in every direction, together with the awkward construction of the houses, each story jutting out over that immediately under it, in such a manner, that the inhabitants of the upper apartments could literally shake hands from the opposite side of the street, by which means the light of the Sun was almost constantly excluded, and all access to any free current of air, which was still more reduced to a state of stagnation, by means of the close latticed windows, each house was carefully guarded with, and which were in some sort necessary to prevent people from seeing every thing which passed in the interior of each other's houses. Such was the situation of Lisbon before the earthquake, excepting the Moorish walls, which had been mostly taken away a long time before.

If we add to the above considerations, the slothful, indolent manner of life all the Portuguese lead, who are not obliged to have recourse to daily labour for their bread, without taking any sort of exercise, and almost constantly wrapped up in their cloaks; we shall want but one circumstance more to account, I think satisfactorily for

a plague having appeared sometimes formerly in Lisbon.

This circumstance is, that there was then a total want of common shores all over the city, which is even now but far too partially supplied with them. To spare you and myself too, the detail of disagreeable ideas, suppose every thing, (which in well regulated cities, or wherever there are numbers of men assembled together, is conveyed under ground from the houses, by means of common shores) thrown nightly from every story into narrow streets, and there suffered to remain, sending up such pestilential exhalations of every kind, as were alone sufficient to breed an epidemic disorder, I think the accounts we have of the plague at times prevailing there will appear no longer wonderful.

But, whatever was the case formerly in that respect, there appears hardly the possibility of any return of the same heavy misfortune, the city being now built, upon quite a different system; and it were fortunate for the inhabitants, could they but insure themselves only half as well against the dreadful catastrophe of earthquakes to which their country is so miserably subject.
—Adieu,

L E T-

L E T T E R XXVI.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE more business and new acquaintance here encrease upon me, I am certainly furnished by that means with more extensive materials for your entertainment ; but I have of course less time to arrange my thoughts, and give them you in order, and for these reasons I have the stronger claim on your indulgence, at the same time any irregularities I may fall into of that sort, cannot materially affect any essential part of my observations.

We arrived both late and fatigued at our apartments, where we found the Clergyman, whom Lord Freeman had sent directly from Faro to Lisbon, with the rest of his *gros baggage*, as being unnecessary in our trip round the frontiers of the kingdom. This Gentleman, who it seems had formerly taught Lord Freeman his Greek and Latin, and now willingly passes for his Governor

Governor or Preceptor, has every appearance of a classical pedant, seems entirely ignorant of the world and unfit to appear in it; he is a native of North Britain, and has been sent, as I understand, by Lord Freeman's mother, who is also of a noble family of the same country, to have an eye over her son's morals while abroad; to prevent his forming any improper connexion, and his imbibing any notions respecting religion, which might tarnish the principles of the pure Presbyterian faith, she and her friend Doctor Duncan have taken care to teach her son from his infancy, and which, I easily perceive, he has taken as good care to new model and accommodate to more rational opinions he has since formed. However, he keeps fair with the Doctor, though he despises him, and suffers him in his family, on purpose not to disgust his mother, for whom, by all his conversation, he seems to have the greatest regard and most sincere filial affection.

Though it was late in the evening on which we arrived here, yet the trusty Irish servant Timothy Cockspur, had, it seems, sent immediate notice to a female friend of his country, who composes part of the numerous

merous suite of female attendants in his Excellency the Marquis of Pancorvo's family, and whom Timothy, partly by money and partly by careffes, has fecured in his master's interest. We had fupped, and Lord Freeman had retired to his bedchamber, and was undreffing when he received a letter from his beloved miftrefs; he eagerly opened it, as you may well fuppose, for Timothy took care to tell him from whence it came; and having perufed it, he fent for me, and put it into my hands. Its contents where exactly as I here copy them for your perufal :

“ My deareft Friend and Lord,

“ It is impoffible for me to refrain from testifying to you my joy on your fafe arrival here, of which I am juft now informed, after being fo long deprived of the happinefs of hearing from, or even of you; but my prayers for your prefervation have been heard, my Freeman is fafe, and I am happy.

“ But yet, my Lord, you will be egregioufly miftaken, if you imagine our bufinefs is near a conclufion; on the contrary, fince my arrival, I find that period ftill more diftant than even I had apprehended : Two powerful obftacles ftand here full
in

in our way; these are interest and religion; but, if you are a true Knight, you will be rather pleased than sorry at these circumstances, as they will redound so much the more to your renown, by affording you an opportunity of vanquishing them, and, like the *preux Chevaliers* of old, obtaining your Dulcinea through a multitude of toils, difficulties and dangers: One thing I know is, that, to judge of your affection by my own, no difficulties will embarrass you—Oh! I could sacrifice every consideration for my dearest Freeman.

“ But now to be serious, my Lord; Patience and Perseverance—these are the only arms, with which you are to fight the battle; and though, I readily imagine not the best adapted to the disposition of an English soldier, they are the most successful means of effecting almost any thing in this country, with which I am much better acquainted than your Lordship: The Portuguese are like the mules and asses which abound in their country; with some address you may lead them as you please, but they will not be driven, and it is with them that, *pian' piano va lontano*.

“ For your regulation, I must give you *la carte du pays*, as I have found it on my arrival

arrival here, respecting my own present situation, and that of the ill-conducted family to which I belong.

“ You know already, that my mother is as blindly attached to the religion in which she was educated, as my father is positive, bigotted and headstrong, in every thing on which he sets his heart; these dispositions have nearly proved his ruin; for, knowing nothing of farming, nor of the management of lands and vineyards, he had entrusted the cultivation of two estates he has, one near this city and another in a distant province, to the care of two priests, poor relations of his own, who have robbed and pillaged him after the most extraordinary manner, and instead of bringing him in the usual rents, have in their accounts, which he does not understand, generally brought him in their debtor, and all this, notwithstanding his being told repeatedly, that these two men were ruining him; insomuch that, during my absence in England, the late King, hearing of this confusion in our family affairs, ordered the administration of my father's lands and houses to be put into the hands of trustees for my brother, allowing out of the rents, what is barely sufficient to support the family; so

Vol. II. D that,

that, were it not for the interest of my fortune, it would be impossible to keep up what is reckoned the indispensable show and appearance of *Fidalgos*, or persons of rank; and for this reason I was, till lately, at a loss to know where my mother gets the money she furnishes my brother, whose ruin she completed by the preposterous marriage she made for him; and whom, the more extravagant and indiscreet he is in his behaviour, the more she seems anxious to indulge in all his humours and passions; while my father is no less blind to his son's irregularities, by the intervention of his own Confessor, Father Dominick de Saint Nicholas, who had the direction of my brother's education, and has inspired him with sentiments and principles similar to his own, which are of the most abandoned sort; this worthless Fryar governs our family, through the unbounded influence he has over my father, by means of the confessional chair, and by the deference my mother is obliged to pay him in every thing, on account of her favourite son's attachment to him, and of her own no less misjudged attachment to her son.

“ The only person who has no sort of authority in the family, is precisely he who
ought

ought to be invested with it all, and is no other than my mother's Confessor, the worthy Father Jockelyn, whom I have mentioned to you formerly in England. This good creature will intermeddle in no business of the family, but to keep peace, and compose the differences which happen but too often, especially among the female part of it, which is by far too numerous. Only consider me here, surrounded with near a dozen attendants, all of whom are of very little real use to me, for they know scarce any thing beside intriguing, dress, writing *billets doux*, and backbiting each other; whereas, in England, one smart maid, or two at most, with the assistance of the *Friseur* upon occasions, were all I ever had any call for; but one must so far give way to custom, and to say the truth, my mother seems equally tenacious of the manners of this country, as if she were a native. —And so much, my Lord, at present, for the interior of our family.

“ I must next inform you, that your old acquaintance, whom you called Captain Priolet, with whom you told me you had travelled for some months in Flanders and Germany about two years ago, is here at present, has the rank of Colonel, and com-

mands one of the Regiments, which compose this garrison; he is highly esteemed by all who know him, and will, I am persuaded, wait on you to-morrow morning, as I have given directions for his being informed of your arrival; he bears an universal good character, and will be of great use in introducing you every where, and, among other persons to my father and mother, whom he visits so frequently, that the malicious part of his acquaintance puts down his assiduity to my account; but the truth is, I find there is an attachment between him and my cousin Miss Welding, whom you have seen of our parties at Greenwich and Blackheath, although she does not acknowledge it to me, but says, he only wishes to play the part of her *Cicisbeo*: However that may be, she came here about four months ago, to take care of her father, the old General, whom the London physicians have, as usual, sent here too late, for the benefit of the air, though the old man has mended surprisingly since his arrival. My cousin is the best girl alive, and, as she visits me much more frequently than our ridiculous Portuguese gravity and decorum will permit me to visit her, she may be of singular service to us, in conveying the necessary intelligence, and in helping to

to smoothe any difficulties which may come in our way. The principal one I foresee at present, exclusive of my father and mother's habitual bigotry and dislike of all sorts of hereticks, arises from the information of one of my maids, who I have reason to believe is sincerely my friend; this woman tells me, that frequently before my return from England, as well as very often since, a Portuguese Gentleman has visited my father after dark, in a mysterious manner, and that sometimes, especially lately, my mother has been called in on these occasions; that, observing these proceedings, her curiosity was awaked to know what was going on, and that by means of some favourable glances she lately bestowed on my father's chief confident and body servant, (who had been long endeavouring to ingratiate himself with her) she had learned that a treaty was on foot for my marriage with that Gentleman, to which he has brought my parents to consent, though so much their inferior in birth, by advancing them money at different times, to the amount of twenty thousand crowns, which my father was in the utmost want of to support his rank, and my mother to supply her son's extravagance; that having now no lands nor other valuables to mortgage

gage and raise money upon, they were necessitated to have recourse to this humiliating connexion, by marrying their only daughter to a rich plebeian, and who is also strongly suspected of having Jewish blood in his veins.

“ This Gentleman, who, it seems, is to be your Lordship’s rival, is no other than the rich Brazil merchant, Bernardo Soares Mendez da Costa, whom every body you will talk with, can give you an account of, and who has an elder brother settled these many years in the Brazils, who remits him home money and goods to a great amount by every fleet that arrives.

“ Though this affair is really of itself laughable and ridiculous, and puts one in mind of reading some old Spanish Romance, yet I am also very much mortified at seeing my aged parents, reduced by their own misapprehensions and extravagance to expose themselves after such a manner, notwithstanding they intend that I shall be the victim. Little do they suspect the nature of their daughter’s sentiments and affections, so different from their own; still less that her heart is long ago unchangeably fixed and pre-engaged; and least of all, that the object of her soul is the worthiest and
most

most valuable of mankind.—Good night, my Lord ; I only beg a line in return, to be certain this has reached you.

“ Your’s, *fin’ alle cenere*,

“ LUCRETIA.”

Lord Freeman would have kissed every line of his mistress’s letter, but on the present occasion he had not time ; he called immediately for pen ink and paper to his bed-side, and, on a table set by it, with a heart overflowing with a tumultuous variety of delightful emotions, he wrote her as follows :

“ Angel of my Soul ! matchless Lucretia ! extraordinary Woman !—What have I done, or wherein can consist any merit of mine, to induce the most incomparable of her sex to pour such a refreshing stream of joy into my heart, as I have just received from the perusal of your letter ? Oh ! cruel Absence ! I was almost going to say, that I now valued you being succeeded by such a transporting return of love and affection. Did you but know, my Lucretia, the pathetic vows of thanks I daily breathe out to Heaven for having created you, sent you into the world, and given you to me—Yes, my only Life, I will see my friend Prioleto-morrow,

to-morrow, and Miss Welding; I will do every thing you request of me, and suffer every thing for your sake.—How comes it, Lucretia, you are so different from every one belonging to you, and I believe from every person of your sex? Oh! how I long to deliver you from such a situation and from such unworthy company; but I will be guided in every thing by your prudence and matchless judgment—O Love! thou art the most exalted blessing that ever was imparted to mankind: thou art the true source of happiness, the spring of goodness, the torrent of pleasure; thy delights are only celestial, and no grovelling earth-born soul was ever yet susceptible of relishing thy pure and charming transports!—But yet, my Lucretia, whence comes it, that when I would express my affection for you, I find my words are weak and unequal to the task: nor am I able to comprehend your real value within the lazy dull formality of speech!

“ Excuse me, Lucretia, but for a moment longer—pardon the transports of a love that never had its equal. May the choicest of the celestial bands lull you to sweet repose, as calm and pure as that divine inhabitant which animates your
matchless

matchless frame, glows in those candid cheeks, and shines resplendent from those sparkling eyes, with the sight of which I hope mine will now very soon be blessed. Sweet Lucretia, my best Lucretia, good night.

“ Your's eternally,

“ FREEMAN.”

I have not time to make any remarks on the above letters, but shall be better able to do so when more acquainted with both the parties concerned; besides, it is now the hour of sending the letters to the post, and I am assured the packet sails this night. Adieu.

L E T T E R XXVII.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

I Expected to have heard from you by the packet which came in here a few days ago, but have been disappointed. Though you desired me not to take up my paper with politics, yet, as it may perhaps be of use to you, in the way of trade and speculation, I must inform you, it is the universal opinion here, that we are on the eve also of a Spanish war, because the French Cabinet chuses it, and entirely against the sense of the Spanish nation, ever averse to a war with Great Britain: where your Lord N—th will find money to answer such unexampled expences, appears indeed a mystery; and whatever his character may be as an individual, I think there is too little danger of mistake in pronouncing him a most profligate Minister.

But that is none of my business here, however severely hurt my love for mankind

kind may be, at seeing the most perfect fabric of a political institution, ever raised by human ingenuity, moving with such hasty strides towards its dissolution, by the almost universal corruption of individuals, tired of enjoying real happiness.

Returning therefore to my narration, as contained in my last epistle, I now proceed to inform you, that Lord Freeman's spirits were too much agitated with the reading of his mistress's letter, and writing the answer to it, to permit him to go to sleep till very late, neither did he awake till pretty late the next morning, when Mr. Priolet was announced to him, and I ushered that Gentleman into his bedchamber; these two friends met again with a great degree of heart-felt satisfaction, and during breakfast were employed in giving each other an account of the manner in which they had employed their time since they last parted.

Priolet was accompanied by another Gentleman, one Doctor Allen, Chaplain of the British Factory here, who, hearing of our arrival, came also very civilly, to make us an offer of his services; he appears to be a man of letters and an agreeable companion, full of information and withal very

communicative; I intend availing myself of his politeness.

After breakfast, notwithstanding the heat, we sallied out to take a view of the city, whose romantic situation, wildly and irregularly scattered over so many high grounds and vallies, interspersed with orchards and vineyards, and descending to the banks of a majestic river full of shipping, produces such a variety of picturesque views, at every new station the observer takes, as are perfectly interesting. Lord Freeman justly observed, that every prospect at some distance from where he stood, was as beautiful, as the spot immediately under his eye was nauseous and disgusting: In fact, the streets are never cleaned, although there is an established contract for scavengers, but they neglect their duty; every sort of filth is discharged in the night, and often in the day-time, from a window or two of each house, into the streets, which would be much more noisome than they actually are, were not every thing that can be eat up by starving dogs, quickly devoured by swarms of those animals, who live abroad, and belong to nobody; as the streets are also since the earthquake more straight and spacious, the strong Sun-beams

beams penetrating them, are of great use in drawing off many pestilential exhalations, in purifying the air, and keeping the streets much cleaner than otherwise they would be, a circumstance which could not take place before the earthquake. A fine Northern breeze, which prevails from mid-day forward, refreshes the parched inhabitants of at least all the higher parts of the city, and carries off the baneful effluvia; yet, after all, it is impossible to walk the city, without the olfactory nerves being every moment saluted with the most disagreeable sensations; accordingly no persons here, who can possibly avoid it, ever walk the streets, both on account of the violence of the heat, and the great distances, the city being so exceedingly spread in all directions; so that it is a common observation of the natives, that, excepting persons of the lowest conditions of life, you shall not meet any one on foot during some hours of the violent heat every day, but dogs and Englishmen.

During the course of our walk, which was a pretty long one, I had a good deal of conversation with Doctor Allen, while Lord Freeman was discoursing with his old acquaintance, who has every appearance
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of a sensible Officer and a well-bred man, and of whom Doctor Allen gave me the following account :

Colonel Priolet, who is a Captain on half-pay in the service of Great Britain ever since the conclusion of last war, came into the service of this country at the particular desire of the late Count la Lippe, under whom he served, during the war in Germany, and who had the highest regard for him, and insisted on his accompanying him, when the late King of this country and the present King of England requested the Count to take the command of the Portuguese and English troops which were to act against the Spanish Army, which assembled on the frontiers of Portugal soon after the declaration of the war with Spain in the beginning of 1762.

Priolet was originally of French extraction, being descended from one of those numerous families which were obliged to abandon their native country and their all, upon the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. He has even had the melancholy satisfaction of surveying in the course of a pretty long tour he took through France and Germany, when he met with Lord Freeman, the very identical spot of land, being
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a neat little estate, beautifully situated in the neighbourhood of the city of Nismes, in the province of Languedoc, which had been the property of his forefathers, and which they had abandoned rather than go to Mass: For this reason, it is not very surprising, that, to the many well-founded objections all other denominations of Christians have to the Popish worship, Mr. Priolet should add the consideration of his particular family misfortunes, and consequently hold himself as singularly aggrieved by it; he had therefore during the administration of the Marquis de Pombal, who had a high value and regard for him, indulged his spleen against the Clergy in general, perhaps more than prudence would have dictated; but in this the Marquis encouraged him, for he disliked the Priests, and took every opportunity of humbling them. Priolet took care to repeat to him in conversation at dinner, which was at least once or twice a week at his country palace at Oeyras, every thing he learned of the irregularities of the Priests and Fryars in the city, and that in so public a manner that it soon came to their ears. All this went on very well at the time, and Mr. Priolet indulged his humour at the expence of the Churchmen; but, I now understand, he

he has reason to repent of his attacking such a Reverend body, especially as it has again come to have that weight it has almost always had at the Court of Portugal.

We concluded our walk by a forenoon's visit to Sir Philip Welding, with whom it seems Lord Freeman had been a little acquainted in England. The old Knight seemed overjoyed to see Lord Freeman, enquired how he had relished his travels, and in how many affairs of gallantry he had been engaged in the different parts he visited. He appeared very much reduced in person, but in fine spirits; said, the physicians had sent him over to die in Lisbon, but he was in great hopes he should disappoint them, and that he found himself much better since his arrival, by breathing a pure air and eating oranges. Lady Welding now appeared, with Miss Welding, Sir Philip's only child. The former was a very tall lively girl, whom Sir Philip had married a year before he left London, contrary to the opinion of all his friends and connections: She was quite a Lady of the Ton; and though, at bottom, possessed of a great share of good sense, yet company and dissipation were her delight; she affected to be exceedingly fond of music, and

and of every thing that was from Italy, having travelled in that country a little before she married, and consequently the other young Lady was no very agreeable companion to her. Miss Welding is of a grave, sedate turn, loves reading and the company of persons of more years and experience than herself; they both received us with great cordiality and politeness, and a party was formed of the two ladies, Colonel Priolet, Lord Freeman and myself, to wait upon the Marchioness of Pancorvo that very afternoon, and introduce us to the family; after which we took our leave, to go and dress for dinner, to which we had been very particularly invited by the British Consul, whom we had also waited on, in the course of our walk.

On our way home, Lord Freeman expatiated in praises of Miss Welding, declaring, it was his opinion she would make an excellent wife for almost any man, and especially for one in Priolet's situation, telling him, he was surprised he did not think of making serious proposals to her, which, he had reason to believe, would not be rejected. I learn indeed from my friend Doctor Allen, that these two worthy persons have been engaged to each other, even for some

years past, but that for prudential reasons, it has not hitherto been possible to complete their wishes by marriage; they have, however, supported this state of self-denial by every reciprocal office of sincere and philosophical friendship, and every sentiment of the purest affection, in expectation of the fortunate moment, when they shall be able to avow their attachment in the face of the world.

Colonel Priolet answered his friend very seriously, that he was entirely of his Lordship's opinion with regard to Miss Welding, that he had the highest respect for her, but that he found himself so awkwardly situated for the present, it would be the height of madness to address her upon the subject; that though an heiress, and supposing her well disposed towards him, yet Lady Welding was a fine young woman, Sir Philip was recovering visibly, and they might still have children—at which Doctor Allen laughed heartily: Priolet continued, by saying, that though at best there was no manner of security or dependence for foreign Officers in the service of Portugal, yet there would have been more plausibility in his marrying during the last administration, when the Minister was his friend and protector,

protector, and when his patron the Count la Lippe was alive, than at this time, having lost them both, and knowing by repeated experience, that he was particularly disliked by the Queen and present Ministry, and more especially obnoxious to the Clergy, who now governed every thing, by means of their Majesties Confessors; that he was now sensible he had gone too far in ridiculing the Churchmen, to which, however, he affirmed, the Marquis of Pombal encouraged him, and that he had been too industrious in exposing the secret practices of numbers he knew of the Religious of every Order, who, instead of checking the progress of vice in the families where they are received, or to which they are related, serve as the chief panders of the great vice of the nation; that, by their means, incest and adultery were almost universally prevalent, and their whole address consisted in preserving the most rigid exterior appearances of decorum; that, under this, they revelled in every species of disorder, which that passion, clear of all other restraint, can prompt them to; and that, of all the enormities whereof the penitent accused him or herself, the *sin of the flesh* was that which met with the readiest and most extensive indulgence from the confessional chair;

and that, most probably, from this had taken rise a proverbial expression, common both in Spain and Portugal, which says thus; *Se Deos castigar a luxuria, pode ficar no Ceo só*; 'If God has a mind to punish lewdness, he is welcome to remain in Heaven alone.'

Here it was that we separated, to prepare for dinner. If I hear nothing from you before writing my next, it will probably contain the account of our visit to the Marquis of Pancorvo's family. Farewell.

LET-

L E T T E R XXVIII.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

AS I was sitting down to write you, I received your's of the 3d instant, by the packet which came in this forenoon. I am not so apprehensive as you appear to be, of the bad consequences of the non-importation agreements they are entering into in our country; and I cannot bring myself to believe, that the English Ministry, corrupted and headstrong as they seem to be, will ever chuse to come to an open rupture with Ireland, at the moment they have France and America, and will soon have Spain also to deal with. Let our countrymen be but unanimous and moderate, and in the language of respectful steadiness, insist upon an equal participation of all the advantages of trade with Great Britain, with an absolute independence of legislature, and they will certainly obtain it: as to having any reliance on the generosity of the British Parliament,

liament, I think the experience of past ages has been much more than sufficient to convince any but thoughtless Irishmen, of the futility of such a proposition; indeed, there exists no such thing between nations, however fair the characters may be of the individuals who compose them; but it has at all times been the decided character of the English nation to lay open the trade of the world for themselves, and to hamper the same with their own colonies, and every other state in any manner depending on them, throwing the balance from every quarter, out of all reasonable proportion, in their own favour; witness their oppression of the Americans, and the haughty manner in which the Parliament received the remonstrances of the Colonists, and how their just pretensions to a share of those privileges they had an equal right to, were treated—witness the hardships Scotland was made to labour under, till England was obliged to admit that nation, upon the footing of union and equality in every thing; and consider what a fortunate circumstance this has been for the Scots, who, from poverty, idleness and misery, have become industrious, rich and happy: And let your patriots reason as they please, I am long fixed in my opinion, that our country will never arrive

arrive at that degree of industry and wealth, she is so susceptible of, till a similar union takes place between her and England; all the arguments I have ever heard or read against it, are much more specious than solid. If some rich and pampered individuals suffer by it, the great body of the people would improve in every sense, the value of land would very soon double, the nation would be delivered from the useless expence, as well as from the curse of a Court, which, wherever it exists, is the abode of deceit and grimace, folly and worthlessness; every man would be happy, industrious, and at least at his ease, in the prosecution of his profession; and, above all things, health, freedom and hilarity, would light up the countenance of the abject desponding Irish peasant, who, at present, in his wretched hovel, is in a more deplorable situation than the most oppressed of Polish villains.

Pardon and excuse, my dear Charles, the spirit of patriotism which has led me into this digression, and compelled me to make these observations on the account you give me of what is now doing in our own country, to which no man born in it has a more sincere attachment than myself; yes, thank Heaven for it, and your brotherly affection,

affection, I may now say I have a country, which is more than any native of Spain or Portugal can say with truth!

But, before I return to my subject, I must observe to you, that, among the bulk of mankind, custom in this world is every thing, and is often our only guide in many of the daily, or even essential transactions of life, when it would be more to our honor or advantage to follow the dictates of reason and good sense, which are so often in opposition to it: If this were not so, what would many of your wealthy London citizens say, at seeing their seconds, their deputies and commissaries in Lisbon, in Spain, in the West Indies, and in the East, sitting down to elegant dinners and to tables decked out with all the luxury of climates, so superior to that of England? while their principals with you, frugally content themselves with a cut of Leadenhall mutton, or a slice of a sirloin, and quench their thirst with a draught of porter, instead of the delicious cool tankard, their apprentices are quaffing abroad, with delicate high-flavoured wines, in variety, at the same time their masters are cheering the vapid dulness of a London November, with thick muddy Port, overcharged with bad intoxicating spirits: Yet,
such

such is the real fact, and so great a difference does the simple affair of situation produce, in the mode and manner of supporting the same individual, as he happens to be set down on different spots of this terraqueous globe.

Such being the case, it will be almost superfluous to add, that we found a very elegant entertainment provided at the British Consul General's here; but what pleased us most, was the agreeable variety of the company, composed of different nations; and the appearance of some very well-bred women. After dinner was over, and coffee, which soon follows in this country, some of the company sat down to cards, others went to walk in a very well laid out garden, others again to billiards, or other amusements, while Lord Freeman, Priole and myself repaired to Sir Philip Welding's, in order to proceed on our intended visit to the Marquis of Pancorvo's family; we accordingly found the two ladies ready and expecting us. Priole advised Lord Freeman to be on the reserve during the visit, and not to converse more particularly with Donna Lucretia, than with any other Lady of the company; we set off, and had above two miles to drive, before we reached the

Vol. II. G house,

house, when we turned into a court-yard, and stopping at the foot of a large staircase, were announced by three or four tolls of a bell, which hung near the Porter's apartment; four men appeared in shabby liveries, and, after several very low bows, walked solemnly before us up stairs, and, after a repetition of bows, delivered us over to two elderly men dressed in regimentals, who were waiting for us at the top, by whom we were conducted in the same ceremonious manner through two large rooms with white walls into a third, hung with old Arras, where they begged us to be seated, and said the *Fidalgos* would wait upon us presently: the apartment was high, large and gloomy, the windows appeared too small for it, but they had no glasses, and were almost choaked up with crimson damask curtains, which hung before them, waving in the wind; all the doors opening into the apartment, which were at least two in each of the three sides, were ornamented with curtains of the same kind, drawn before them, with the family coat of arms embroidered on each; we sat here, in almost silent expectation, for near a quarter of an hour, when the beautiful Donna Lucretia bolted from behind one of the curtains; she was in a loose flowing dress

dress of flowered Indian stuff, most enchantingly becoming, her hair was done up in a fine fancy taste, for which it would be hard to find a name, but she looked like an angel; she instantly ran to embrace her cousin and Lady Welding; Freeman made haste to salute her, and she returned it frankly, and, putting her finger to her mouth, made signs for us all to sit down, for that her father and mother would appear immediately: the curtain before one of the doors was accordingly drawn aside, and the Marchioness, preceded by the two gentlemen in uniforms, and supported by a third in full dress, walked gravely into the room; she is a tall thin figure, but has in her manner every appearance of a person of fashion and the remains of a fine woman; our company rose to do their obeisance to her, and Lord Freeman and myself, as the strangers, were presented; she received us with great politeness, assured us she was peculiarly happy to see us in Lisbon, and apologized for her speaking such bad English, but said she hoped now to recover it, since her dear daughter was returned to her company; at times she forced a smile, but there seemed to be a melancholy gravity fixed upon her countenance; there was a beautiful Rosary twisted about her left arm;

and to the end of it was attached a sparkling diamond cross; each *Ave Maria* of the Rozary was made of a large topaz, cut in the form of a dodechaedron, and the *Pater Nosters* were each a large true pearl, and the whole was strung upon a chain of gold. It is, it seems, a family piece, consecrated to the use of the Lady of the House, and it is remarked, even by the bigoted natives here, that none of her predecessors ever gave it more exercise than the present Marchioness.

In the mean time his Excellency the Marquis of Pancorvo made his appearance, ushered in with the usual ceremony. To abbreviate description, imagine to yourself the blown-up purfy figure of the facetious Sancho Pança, inclining still more to caricature, and you will be nearer the truth; suppose you see a prodigious fat little man, labouring under his own weight, and waddling into the room, by throwing his body with an effort every time he stepped forward, upon the leg perpendicularly under him, while he advanced the other; he had just risen from his festa, which was generally a stretch of three or four hours constant snoring, he had on him a light cloak, under which appeared a prominent circumference

ference of belly, buttoned up in a scarlet waistcoat, with long flaps, which entirely covered his short thighs down to the knees, this waistcoat was adorned with an open gold lace, at least three inches broad, his large head was covered with a fine linen cap bordered with Bruffel's lace, his cheeks were quite full, and his eyes almost invisible, they were so surrounded with fat, there was no appearance of any neck, but an enormous double chin rested upon his breast; there was commonly a smile upon his face, and his happiness consists in boasting of the feats of his youth, or in laughing, and for this last purpose, I am informed he keeps always two servants in quality of buffoons, whose business it is either by foolish ridiculous tales they tell him, or by monkey tricks they perform before him after he has said his *Terço*, to keep him laughing every night for an hour before he goes to bed, otherwise he cannot sleep. On our being presented to him, he shook us by the hand, and even attempted to give us the *accolade*, (which word I really know not how to express in English) and laughed heartily, assuring us he was overjoyed to see us, told us his house and every thing he possessed was at our command, and that he hoped we would consider them as our own;

own; all this, as well as he could articulate, for his tongue was too large for his mouth, from which it was frequently starting out, to the no small surprise of those who were not accustomed to his company, he begged us to be seated, took a chair, and, after puffing and blowing some time, he called for sweet-meat and a glass of water, which he always took after his festa : The rest of the company were engaged in conversation, though I found it difficult to take my eyes off the Marquis, and I was astonished, when, after his taking two spoonfuls of liquid sweet-meat, I saw him swallow down at one draught, a large tumbler full of water, which must have held above a couple of quarts. I knew they were all very fond of fine water, but did not imagine it had been possible to take in such a quantity at once.

The Marquis then addressed Lord Freeman, next to whom he sat, saying, that as he saw he wore a uniform, he supposed he must have smelled powder and seen fighting before now, and, without giving him time to reply, proceeded to give him an account of the campaigns he himself had formerly served in Piedmont, and of his feats at the battle of Coni; wished he could
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pass every year of his life, as he did those campaigns, having the enemy always before him, with much more to the same purpose; and all this uttered with such a sort of babbling rapidity, as made Freeman really believe he had actually served in these wars in Italy, or that he had his lesson very currently by heart; and this last we have since found to be the case, and that his Excellency the Marquis has never been out of his native country.

The servants now introduced tea and chocolate, and one of them whispered the Marquis, who thereupon took occasion to ask pardon of the company, for that he was called out; every body stood up in ceremony, while his unweildy Excellency waddled to the nearest door, nor did he return any more; his place was however soon supplied by his son, the young Count, with his friend and companion Father Dominick. The old Lady's countenance seemed to lighten up at the sight of her son, and Miss Welding, who till then had been exceedingly chearful, looked suddenly grave. Lord Freeman endeavoured to enter into some conversation with the young Count, but he bluntly told him he understood neither French nor English, and turned to his friend

friend Dominick. Freeman looked at his beloved mistress, who appeared ready to break out into a hearty laugh, at seeing the oddity of his situation, and reflecting on what must be his opinion of the company he had got into. He made her a sign that he wished to talk with her particularly, but she by another referred him for the present to her cousin, who would satisfy him. Upon the whole, the conversation was far enough from interesting; the Marchioness did nothing after her son came into the room but stare at or converse with him, and we soon after took our leaves.

On our return to Sir Philip Welding's, we there found the British Envoy and some of the company we had met at dinner; they were all emulous in shewing us every sort of civility, and to make the place appear agreeable to us. Among other parties proposed for our amusement by the friendly Doctor Allen and others, the British Envoy himself did us the honor of saying, that if we wished to see a man of rank baptized and made a Christian, he would take care to acquaint us in time of the day when it was to be done, and Doctor Allen would have the pleasure of accompanying us to the Chapel Royal, where
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the ceremony was to be performed, in presence of their Majesties and the Court. We have, as you may suppose, thankfully accepted the offer, and if the description of such a scene afford matter worth repeating, you shall have it in detail. We all supped with the old Knight, and were well entertained with his company and that of the other persons present; they were sober, wise and perfectly merry, nor did the Ladies leave us, according to your uncouth custom in England, till we broke up and retired to our different homes, without stupefying our senses with more wine than we could bear, or than nature requires, as is too often the barbarous and unmanly practice in more Northern latitudes.

Adieu.

LETTER XXIX.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

I Was going to give you an account of the most incredible piece of mockery, I witnessed here a few days ago, were I not prevented by another concern, which, I imagine, comes within the limits of that sort of correspondence you wish I should keep up with you; and, as it offered itself to my consideration, prior in point of time, to the above hinted scene at which I was present, I shall make it the subject of this epistle.

You will, no doubt, recollect a young Portuguese student, we accidentally met with at Faro in Algarve, who accompanied us in our wild sort of ramble round the frontiers of this kingdom, and whom, by his own entreaty, we left with the English Consul at Porto, where he is most beneficially instructing himself, as well by the Consul's

Consul's conversation, as the perusal of his books. Before we left Porto, I had much discourse with this young fellow, who promised to write and inform me how he went on, and I received a letter from him some days ago, of which the following is an authentic copy :

“ *Dear Captain,*

“ According to promise, I take the liberty of writing to you, and hope you and Lord Freeman arrived safe in Lisbon, where, I doubt not, you will be agreeably entertained. My constant employment since you left us, has been in the worthy Consul's library, where I spend every moment I can curtail from the dinners and suppers we are asked to ; for though they are excellent, and vouch most favourably for the hospitality of the Portonians, yet, as I am now becoming daily more sensible of the bad quality and insufficiency of the mental sustenance, with which I have been hitherto supplied, I am resolved to improve by the present favourable opportunity of remedying so great a defect ; and, considering myself as not less obliged to you and Lord Freeman, by motives of gratitude and sincere acknowledgment, for so many essential favours received, than by inclination and

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respect

respect for the virtues of that excellent young Nobleman, I must entreat your indulgence, while I give you some account of the observations, which have occurred to me, respecting that particular branch of study I am in a manner bound to follow, begging your opinion, and that of Lord Freeman, in regard to what I ought to do, for I freely confess I was never in so embarrassed a situation.

“ Among the different sorts of reading and meditation the Consul's books have furnished me with, the nature of my engagements has induced me to turn a great share of my attention towards divinity, and the investigation of every thing relating to the Church, as I have already the first tonsure, and propose taking full Priest's Orders, according to the last Will of my benefactor, after going through the regular courses at the University of Coimbra ; but it has unfortunately happened to me in the study of this science, the contrary of what I experienced in most of the others, and especially those of synthetical and analytical disquisition, for in these, with the Consul's assistance, I found every step I advanced so much the more light breaking in upon me from every quarter : I found
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that the proper application of the clear and uniform principles contained in Euclid's Elements, ushered me with advantage into all the higher walks of that elegant science; that they directed my course over every part of the surface of the earth, laid open to me the ravishing beauties of Astronomical observation, and disclosed the secrets of Nature, in the enchanting study of Experimental Philosophy, through all its branches, and the whole so clear, palpable and evident, that no person, professing to be guided by the dictates of Reason, can possibly refuse his assent.

“ But I find all the above circumstances sadly reversed, with regard to my Theological lucubrations: In these the more I advance the more I find my own opinion divided, as well as the opinions of almost all the authors I have consulted; and this not only in matters of smaller importance, but such as are, by all parties, considered as the most essential.— But, above all things, my perusal of the Bible, which I have read here for the first time, has amazed me; for in it I have found both the principles and practice of the Christian religion delineated so differently from, and generally so opposite to
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all I observed in the tenets of that in which I have been educated, that I think it must be clear to the most limited discernment, if one of the two systems is positively the true one, the other must certainly be the contrary.

“ In this dilemma, what course am I to take ? Am I to renounce the faith in which I have been brought up, to embrace another of the many opinions I see before me, and the most of them perhaps equally erroneous ? But had I a mind to do so, I can readily perceive, that where I am the thing is impracticable ; and hence I am led to infer, that the boasted uniformity of worship in this country, is no proof either of its goodness or orthodoxy ; that it is purely owing to compulsion and the Inquisition ; and that, were it not for the restraint they are under, different men here would, like those of other countries, have opinions no less different on the subject. I have, however observed, that polemic writers on all sides, concur in allowing a greater or smaller share of authority to the Scriptures, and that the most sensible and impartial part of them are those who unite the most cordially in acknowledging their divine original, and adopting them as the principal

pal rule of faith, in opposition to whatever has been set up in competition with them. Accordingly, I have applied myself particularly to the study of the New Testament, in its original language ; I have then consulted many Translations, and run through a variety of Commentators : The result of all my enquiries to this present moment has been, that if that New Testament contains the pure elements of the Christian doctrine, how different, opposite and corrupted are the established religions of this, as well as of most other countries of Europe ? —Sir, I will not, because I know I should not blush to own, that I have found a noble, an energetic and charming simplicity in the stile of that sacred Volume : I have found the precepts it contains only tend to improve and inculcate, from the sublimest considerations, all those sentiments which I have perused with rapture in my favourite Seneca : I find, in short, that it is Morality carried to the summit of perfection, and recommended to the practice of mankind, by the doctrine and example of a visible and suffering Divinity.

“ But then, what a chaos of contradiction is this, which is called the Catholic or universal religion, and which is really so far

far from being so? In the whole course of the New Testament, I am not able to trace the most distant appearance of a hint for any Sacrament but two, at the same time I am taught to believe there are certainly seven; and I can discover no sort of analogy between the Sacrament of the Altar, as exhibited in Portugal, and our Lord's last supper with his Disciples: this happened in the evening by our Saviour's own direction, and in an upper room, where he sat down in company with them. On the contrary, here all Priests are forbid to begin to say Mass after mid-day. When the Priest consecrates the wafer, we are assured, that it is instantly changed, from the substance and nature of bread, into that of real and natural flesh and blood; whereas, at our Saviour's last supper, the bread which he himself ate, and that which he broke and gave to his disciples, and which they also ate, was certainly and most evidently no part of his own real body, which was at that very time whole, alive and entire, sitting with them at the table; so that his saying to them, *This is my Body*, must indisputably and without the least room for hesitation, or doubt, have been understood and interpreted by his Disciples, in a figurative sense only; though they might

might not perhaps thoroughly comprehend the whole force of the expression till after his death, resurrection and ascension.

“ Our Saviour sat at a table with his Disciples, and ate in common with them, and drank of the same cup, which he gave them, saying, *Drink ye all of it.* The Priest stands before a high raised table, called an Altar, and, while he eats the wafer and drinks the wine, his back is turned towards the Disciples or the people, who seldom partake of the bread, and never of the cup, in express contradiction to our Saviour's injunction of, *Drink ye all of it.*

“ Our Saviour directs his Disciples to eat and drink in remembrance of him. The Canon of the Mass commemorates and celebrates the memory, in the first place, of the glorious Virgin Mary, and a number of other Saints, there mentioned by name, without saying any thing in remembrance of Christ himself.

“ The Mass here among us, is certainly held to be a propitiatory Sacrifice, as often as it is said, and according to the intention with which it is applied; whether it be for the sins of the living or the dead, for the recovery of a sick horse, or the finding of

a trinket which has been lost; or to obtain a fortunate voyage, or a prosperous journey. On the other hand, the New Testament informs me in one place, that, *As it is appointed unto all men once to die, so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many.* And in another place, *But now once in the end of the world, hath he appeared to take away sin, by the sacrifice of himself.* From these, and numberless other passages equally strong, I meet with in the New Testament, I am certainly to conclude, that Christ himself was the one, only, and propitiatory Sacrifice for the sins of mankind, and consequently, that all the other Sacrifices and propitiations, which the Mass-priests pretend to make daily all over the world, are absurd, nugatory and ridiculous.

“ I must confess, the consideration of these circumstances, to every appearance so contradictory and irreconcilable, in an article, which is by all regarded as the first and most essential in the whole Christian religion, for a good while stunned my judgment and powers of reflection; and, (I feel it) have in the issue effected an entire revolution in my sentiments, my opinions and belief. I have been under the necessity of studying Church history, which
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has served as a clew to conduct me out of such a labyrinth, by enabling me to trace the origin and course of the astonishing changes, which, I am now sensible, have been introduced both into the discipline and doctrine of the pretended universal Church. In this elaborate inquiry, I have often had reason to regret the loss of Lord Freeman's conversation and your's, as you were always willing, and almost equally able, to give me satisfactory solutions of all the doubts I have proposed to you.

“ I have, by repeated insinuations, applied to the Consul, for information on the subject; but, however useful he has been to me in my disquisitions concerning the other arts and sciences, by often preventing even my wishes, and teaching me every thing he knows himself, or can gather out of books for my instruction, yet, as often as I have attempted to bring the discourse upon the topic of Theology, and especially upon the disputed points, I find he always fights off, and cannot be brought to deliver any opinion. At last, I yesterday took occasion to tell him, that as by the Will of the only benefactor I ever had, on which my subsistence depends, I was obliged soon to take Holy Orders, I

was for that reason extremely desirous of previously knowing as much as possible, concerning the past and present state of a religion, whereof I am to become an essential member; and as I had a very high respect for his sentiments on every other subject, I was so much the more anxious to know them on a business of such a serious nature, and in which I was to be afterwards so intimately interested.

“ The Consul seeing me thus in earnest, and that he was under a sort of necessity of explaining himself on the subject, desired me to sit down last night, after we had done drinking tea, and spoke to me as follows :—

Infelice quell' uccello chi nasce in cattiva valle.

‘ Unfortunate is the bird which is hatched in a barren plain.’

“ This, my dear friend, (said he) I apply to you, so far as that I see you are constrained, by the directions of the person on whom you had your only dependance, to enter into a state of life, which, perhaps, otherwise would not have been your choice; and this I consider as a grievance upon any man, especially when he must enter upon that profession of a Churchman, which,

which, as religion goes now a-days, no man of honor or conscience will undertake without shuddering and horror. As you insist upon my telling you my opinion concerning religion, I must in return insist on it, that you consider every thing I shall say on the subject, as my private opinion only, and which I would no more wish to obtrude upon you, or any other man, than I would desire that a man of six feet high should reduce himself exactly to my size, which is five inches under that measure, or that he should have his nose precisely of the shape of mine, or wear a wig and a brown coat as I do, instead of a scarlet one and his own hair, which I suppose he likes best.

“ I say, moreover, that every constraint which is attempted to be put upon men, in any shape whatever, beyond what is contained in the necessary and public laws, established for the good order and conservation of civil society, is abominable. I was born free as air, and, by the Grace of God, hope to die so : I mean as far as is consistent with the freedom of every man about me, who ought to enjoy exactly the same privilege ; and whoever should go about to shackle my understanding, by
 keeping

keeping me in ignorance, or depriving me of the means of knowledge, and would pretend to direct my sentiments, and to make me think as he chuses, in any thing, and especially in matters of mere speculation, (as all your established worships are) such a one must indeed be the legitimate descendant of that malignant being, who is supposed to exist only for the scourge and destruction of mankind.

“ Having so far premised, I shall frankly tell you, what I understand with regard to religion, which I take to comprehend the right notions we should form of the Deity, the great first cause and mighty preserver of this wonderful and well regulated system we see before us, together with the duties we owe to him, and to each other, as relative and dependent beings—that indeed he must be very hard to please, who having perused the Works of Plato, after having examined the opinions of Socrates, Epictetus, of Seneca, and the divine Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, cannot form a very noble and satisfactory system of religion to himself. But, if he would carry his religion, or his duty to God and his neighbour, to the highest degree of perfection, let him consult his Bible, let him
him

him eagerly embrace whatever he shall find therein consonant to his calm and dispassionate reason, and let him respect what he there finds above its reach, or in apparent contradiction to it; for, as it is the same Omniscience which speaks to us through the channel of Holy Writ, and through that of Reason and Conscience in the breast of every man, it is impossible that same Omnipotence can ever contradict itself. In fact, was there ever a scheme of revealed religion propounded for the belief of mankind, so noble as the Christian? A Deity generously sacrificing himself for the preservation of the human race, and in confirmation of that pure and beautiful system of morality he taught both by precept and example; a system he himself repeatedly declared, was never intended to be of this world, and which whenever it became so, was immediately contaminated, according to the times, places and circumstances under which it was adopted; so that we have seen, ever since the times of the bloody Constantine, who set it upon the Imperial throne, it has, Proteus like, been constantly changing appearances, and, under the different forms of civil Government where it has been admitted, has only been the
various

various and fashionable religion of the day, instead of the religion of Christ.

“ It is astonishing to observe the constant and universal bias, which seems implanted in human nature, towards the setting up a variety of forms, as well as numberless different objects of adoration and worship, honouring them with the homage of *Latria*, *Dulia*, and *Hyperdulia*, and the unremitting endeavours of all wise law-givers, to bring their people back to the adoration of one only supreme and universal Author of Nature. Thus, under the Mosaic dispensation, we have seen their Prophets and inspired Teachers continually inveighing against the spiritual fornication and adultery of the Jews, ever eager to adopt the Gods of the Gentile nations, who surrounded them. Notwithstanding the characteristic Unitarian system of Mahomet, we have seen that his successors, Ali and Omar, have divided his religion into near a hundred sects; and in the same manner every superstitious practice of the old Pagan worship has been re-admitted and flourished with redoubled vigour in the Polytheism of the Christian religion, without any difference but in the change of names, as soon as,

or

or even before it had obtained any fixed temporal establishment.

“ All manner of established religions is constantly changing, as well as the Governments which admit them, and all other sublunary things whatever. The benevolent system of the new Testament is unchangeable, proceeding from a superior source, and perfectly well calculated, in concert with Reason and Conscience, to insure the present and future happiness of every individual, who will sincerely have recourse to them. Here every man is his own Priest, and, by the purity of his manners and the uprightness of his heart, daily consecrates in his own breast, a living Sacrifice to the ineffable Author of his existence; and that without the intervention of any, but the only Mediator between God and man. Away then, with all your idle dreams of Grand Lamas, Mufti's, Popes, Cardinals, Bishops, and all that overgrown and endless crowd of attendants and whippers-in, which the thirst of universal power, unbridled avarice, and the most unconscionable knavery have contrived, to depress and sink the Human race; as if it were intended by a wanton experiment, to

try how near to a state of brutal servitude, it is possible to debase them.

“ As to that particular Sect of the Christian religion in which you have been educated, now going fast out of date, wherever Reason and Good Sense have re-assumed their due influence, and in which you are in a manner obliged to become a Priest and a Sacrificer, according to their notions ; it is so extravagant, so contemptibly ridiculous, so grossly insolent, so impiously blasphemous against the very existence and attributes of the Supreme Being, and has on all occasions, so cruelly trampled upon and crushed the best rights and dearest liberties and privileges of mankind, that I should be extremely vexed to see so fine a young fellow as yourself engage precipitately in it, before you are thoroughly acquainted with the ground you tread on, as by one rash step you may have such serious cause to repent, during the rest of your life.

“ I shall presume to give you one piece of advice, and relate to you a matter of fact, which happened in our neighbouring kingdom of Spain. I shall begin with this last :

“ The

“ The Emperor Charles the Fifth, and his son Philip the Second, King of Spain, (both great zealots for your Popish religion) sent many learned and eminent Spanish Divines into Germany, Flanders and England, where the spirit of reformation from the abuses of Rome was at that time strong, on purpose to preach against it, and prevent its gaining ground; but every thing turned out contrary to the expectations of those Princes; for the Missionaries they sent, by conversing with the Reformers and reading their books, became, almost to a man, converts to their principles, and, returning home full of zeal, propagated the same through their native country, inso-much, that had not the Inquisition stepped in, and put a stop to the surprizing progress they were making, all Spain would have become Protestant in less time than ever happened to any other country before. This is no tale of mine, for you may read it in Paramus himself, who was both a Papist and a zealous Inquisitor. But the repeated Inquisitorial bonfires lighted up at Seville, Toledo and Valladolid, put an effectual stop to such novelties: There, were sacrificed, the Doctor Augustine Cazalla, a Canon of Salamanca, who had been Chaplain and Preacher to Charles the Fifth, with his

mother and many others, professing the Protestant faith, the Bachelor Herezuelo, and his wife Donna Leonor de Cisneros, many years after her husband's death, Don Carlos de Seso, Don John Pontio de Leon, son to Don Rodrigo, Count of Baylen, the Doctor Christopher Lofada, with the admirable young Lady Donna Maria Bohorquia, and numberless others I have not time to mention. Now, with such an example before your eyes, I would only mean to advise you not to be precipitate, but to take the necessary time to reflect on what you ought to do: Read Church history carefully, on all sides of the question, then ponder well with yourself, and compare facts with impartiality, converse with persons of all persuasions, hear every one with coolness, never engage too deep in any controversy, let others dispute, and do you remark and observe in silence; and if, after only a twelvemonth's application in the manner I have prescribed, you do not renounce every idea of becoming a Priest, then I will voluntarily disclaim every pretension to the use of Reason or Common Sense.—

“ Here the Consul ended his surprising discourse. I call it so, for it really was so to me, as it has suggested to me so many
new

new ideas, and brought to perfection others which I had already begun to form in embryo. Dear Captain, excuse the length of this letter, and, if you please, shew it to Lord Freeman, and above all things, favor me with both your opinions on its contents.

“ I remain, most truly, &c. &c. &c.”

I accordingly desired Lord Freeman to peruse his letter, which he had no sooner done, than he put it into the hands of Colonel Priolet, who happened to be present at the time. Priolet admired the letter, and seemed to take the most lively interest in the welfare of the writer. After some consultation, it was agreed among us, that in answer I should request the young student (John Carlos) to come hither, without loss of time, and Priolet insisted upon lodging him on his arrival in his own apartments, where he has plenty of accommodation, saying, that he will undertake to confirm the young fellow soon in the principles of Truth and Reason, which already seem to be so strong in him. I have accordingly written, and we expect him here in three weeks or a month hence. This letter being already abundantly too long, I have only room to bid you Adieu.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXX.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

IT is fortunate I did not write you sooner what I intend to make the subject of the present letter; for though I could inform you equally well concerning what I myself was present at, yet there were some preliminary explanations very necessary, with which I am now supplied by my very good friends Colonel Priolet and Doctor Allen. Indeed I should find it very hard to say, to which of these two Gentlemen I am most indebted for information, concerning this country, where they have long resided, and are men of good sense, and well calculated to make proper observations. From these Gentlemen I have learned the following circumstances.

That the Marquis of Pombal, till lately Prime Minister here, had ever really formed the design of setting aside the present
Queen

Queen upon her father's decease, notwithstanding her indisputed right to the Throne, by the fundamental laws of the kingdom, enacted at the Cortes of Lamego, and to continue his own administration, by placing her Son, a Minor, upon the Throne, is what cannot be positively affirmed; nor is it now likely it will ever be certainly known; but, without doubt, such a thing was strongly suspected at the Court of Madrid. The Portuguese Minister had for a considerable time before been sending troops in small bodies, and as it were by stealth, to their settlements in South America; and new Regiments of Infantry and one of Artillery, the principal Officers whereof were sent from Europe, were forming in the city of the Rio de Janeiro, the chief seat of Government in the Brazils, under General Böhme, a German Officer, formerly in great favour with the Count la Lippe, which he forfeited by being President of a Court-martial, which condemned and shot Mr. Graveron, a French Officer, in this service, as is said, innocently. At any rate, circumstances appeared favourably about the time the Minister was supposed to have such a scheme in agitation; for after having triumphed over the Jesuits in 1773, and having their Order abolished, by means

means of his friend Clement the Fourteenth, after erecting in 1775, in the middle of the great Square of this city, with all the pomp and ceremony imaginable, an Equestrian Statue of the King his master, with a bronze of his own head, larger than the life, in the front of the pedestal. He was now more powerful than ever; he was either loved or feared by the whole nation, every thing plied readily before him, and it was even in his power, at that time, to give his country liberty, and make them all Protestants, had he been so minded; but there was no appearance of his doing an action so inconsistent with his own domineering principles. He never approved of the unfortunate American war the English had then begun; he said it was a difficult thing to go from such a distance and turn people out from their own fire-sides; that the Dutch had attempted to do the same by them in the Brazils, but miscarried, and that without doubt France would assist the Americans. He saw the Spaniards had received a severe check that very year in their ill-conducted attack upon the Algerines, and, whatever was his design, the Marquis had really, in the beginning of 1776, given orders for completing the Regiments and furnishing the frontier Garrisons of the kingdom

kingdom with ammunition and stores; he gave out publicly that he expected a war with Spain, and told General Maclean, who at that time, commanded the troops in Lisbon, and was his chief confident, that, though he had repeated assurances from the Court of Madrid of their pacific disposition, yet he knew the Marquis de Grimaldi, then Premier there, was a man so entirely void of all principle and honesty, that he could by no means trust him, and therefore it was necessary to be upon his guard; but he took the alarm sincerely, when, about the beginning of April of the same year, the Spanish Ambassador waited on him to acquaint him, that the King his master intended sending a squadron of twelve men of war, with some frigates to sea, purely with a view to manœuvre and teach the young Officers and men their duty, by sailing about, and practising during the summer months; and he hoped his Most Faithful Majesty would have no objection to all or any part of that fleet putting into the Port of Lisbon, in case either of stress of weather, want of provisions, or any other accident. Next day, the French Ambassador waited on him, and in much the same manner, informed him, that a French squadron was to put to sea from Brest on

the 15th of that month, on board of which the Duke of Chartres was to embark. On this, he issued orders for all the Regiments to be ready to march from their quarters on the shortest notice—he sent to England for more Officers to put into the Regiments—he sent to Germany for the Marechal General Count la Lippe, who excused himself on account of his bad state of health, but recommended two cousins of his own, the Counts Sh—b—gh and O—h—n, who came, and were employed as Colonels in the service; the former got the command of a Regiment in a distant province, but soon threw it up, on account of the bad behaviour of his Officers, and left the country a short time after; the latter remained, and is still in the service. He is respected for his military talents, and is esteemed a man of good sense and knowledge of the world. I shall leave you therefore to judge if he was serious in the miserable farce he exhibited here the other day, in the presence of the principal persons both of Court and City.

Farther you must know, that immediately on the Queen's accession to the Crown, a number of starving and unprincipled Foreigners, among whom I am sorry to include

clude some of our own country of both sexes, availed themselves of her weakness and known disposition towards Catholicism, and pretending to become converts to the religion of the country, they took her for godmother at the time of their being baptized into the true Church, by which means they insured to themselves her protection, and often also a trifling pension to live on; but as this happened only among the ignorant and inferior ranks of people, the cause of so many conversions at that time was readily accounted for: but when Count O—h—n adopted the resolution of going through that ceremony, the sensible part of the public could not so easily account for such a false step, without giving up the good opinion they had formed of him.

Be that as it may, the British Envoy having, according to promise, acquainted us with the day and hour appointed for the ceremony, we accompanied Dr. Allen to the Chapel Royal of the Adjuda. The Envoy had sent beforehand to the principal Sacristan of the Chapel, to whom he was known, and for a trifle had secured a small letticed balcony, almost immediately above the high altar, from whence we could see

every thing distinctly, and at the same time have an opportunity of conversing together, without being in the least perceived.

Soon after we had taken our posts, the Royal family appeared in their balcony, nearly opposite to where we were. The Queen is a decent, fresh-looking woman; but as for King Peter, our tawny King of Spain, with his monstrous nose, is quite an Adonis, when compared to him: He has very hard features, joined to a foolish look, and wears a very ill-combed wig, generally to one side; and though he never tastes wine, yet, to my mind, he has altogether very much the appearance of a stupid old guzzling Englishman, about two-thirds drunk. High Mass struck up as soon as the Queen appeared, with a sermon suited to the occasion, and as the whole performance took up a good deal of time, we had sufficient opportunities of conversing and making our observations.

Pray, Sir, (said Lord Freeman to the Doctor) who is that smart-looking little man, with quick lively eyes, in conversation with the fat man next him? That Gentleman (replied the other) is M——n de M——o, Secretary of State for the Ultramarine

Ultramarine department, a firey, passionate, short-sighted creature, without steadiness sufficient to fix upon the object he would be at: When he was called hither from London, where he was Ambassador during part of the late Administration, he made such an imprudent and ill-judged noise about the neglected condition the Army here was fallen into, that instead of serving it, he hurt its cause; for the old Marquis of Pombal, (who would never suffer the smallest competition of power) to convince the other of his want of consequence and authority, made not the least account of his representations, and suffered the Army to go on in its usual state, and dwindling downwards, till it has now come into the hands of these people who have entirely ruined it. Mr. de M——o affected a great esteem and friendship for the English Officers in the service; but was nothing less than sincere, for now that they are no more in fashion at Court, he has turned his back upon them. It was owing to his neglect that the Spaniards took the settlement of the *Nova Colonia* upon the *Rio de la Plata*, nearly opposite to *Buenos Ayres*, and that without firing a shot, for the Garrison was unprovided in every thing, but a few measures of Mandioc flour, and the troops

troops in Garrison had received no pay for six years before : and indeed it did not fare a whit better with their Island of *St. Catherine*, when the Spaniards came before it in the beginning of 1777, though well provided in every thing. But what I cannot help reprobating in the behaviour of this little man is, that he justifies the conduct of the Marquis of Lavradio, then Viceroy of the Brazil, who stripped Captain Macdowal, an able English Officer, who commanded their fleet there, of his employments ordering him to be ignominiously put on shore upon an uninhabited beach, without bringing him to any trial, for not attacking the Spanish fleet above double his force, and that too in direct opposition to the written instructions he had, signed by the Prime Minister himself. But the fact was, that by this time the Marquis of Pombal was no more Minister, and Macdowal was made the victim, to cover the cowardly behaviour of their land forces, who might have defended the Island with advantage, and thereby furnished the Admiral opportunities of distressing their Spanish fleet during the siege. The taking of *St. Catherine* happened exactly at the time the late King died, and the present Queen thought herself very happy to patch up

up a disgraceful peace soon after with the Spaniards, upon their own terms ; and the little Secretary of State abandoned Macdowal, instead of supporting an Officer, who, he was conscious, had done his duty ; though, perhaps, as he now stands, self-preservation might have its share in his motive for so doing. Moreover, Mr. de M——o imagines he has a great notion of trade, merely because he resided so long in London, but his gross ignorance and original want of education, are a more than sufficient bar to all his pretensions to knowledge in that way. Would you believe it, that when he has to multiply seven or eight figures by the numbers five or six, so ignorant is he of the common multiplication table, that to find the product he writes down the figures of the multiplicand five or six times under each other, and then sums up the whole : and yet, this little compound of superciliousness and ignorance is entrusted with authority to command so many other persons, infinitely wiser and better instructed than himself. He has besides too great a mixture of cruelty and ingratitude in his disposition ; is violent, and short-lived in his friendships, and in his enmities capricious hot and unrelenting.

The

The fat purfy Jewish-looking man you see the other paying so much court to, is the Premier of the day, the M——s of A—g—a, without whom nothing is done. He is Inspector of the Royal Treasury, and holds the purse-strings, Director of the Dockyards and of the Marine, and has been all along the great confident of King Peter, when he was the Infant Don Pedro. This circumstance, together with that of his being the avowed antagonist of the late Minister, was the means of advancing him to his present employments. His principal merit consists in an inexhaustible fund of address, low cunning and dissimulation; neither his talents nor integrity are once to be put in comparison with those of his predecessor, nor has he the smallest share of his firmness and resolution. His whole business seems to be temporizing, which, joined to his natural cunning, may be sufficient to answer all the limited political views of this petty kingdom, which are only confined to self-preservation. However, the late peace he made with Spain, would any where else be reckoned infamous; but as the nation has no share in the Government, they care nothing about it, provided they are allowed to trudge on in their old way. In regard to money matters,

matters, he is, if possible, as great a Scrub as his master King Peter, which may be one good reason for his being put at the head of the Treasury, where he starves every thing and every body, but himself and family; for as he was before exceedingly poor, he may now be truly said to make his *choux gras*; and indeed in this, his predecessor in office set him but too glaring an example.

I have observed (said Freeman) a thinner-looking man in the middle, with a small book in his hands, extremely intent upon the service, with his eyes rivetted on the altar and celebrating Priests, and who seems to be perfectly serious in his devotions. That person (said the Doctor) is he whom our Envoy transacts most of his business with; he is Secretary of War, and of the Despatch of Affairs with the Foreign Ministers, his name is Ay—s de S——â; a good-natured, easy, simple man, the symbol of indolence and blind attachment to all the superstition of religion, which is indeed the whole of religion in this country: He thinks he is seriously doing something, when he hears Mass, and blesses himself a hundred times, with the little book of the office, which he devoutly carries with him every where, care-

fully preserved in a neat pocket-case. Although Secretary of the War Department, nobody who knows him, does him the injustice to suppose he is better acquainted with the art of War and the direction of an Army, than with any thing else, except saying his prayers, accompanying the Sacrament, kissing the sleeve or the scapulary of every dirty Fryar he meets, and having a particular concern for, and care of the private interests, of poor little Self.

Pray, Sir, (said I to the Doctor) who may that tall lusty man be, who stands behind the King, he is in a unifom, and has the face of a Eunuch, without the appearance of any beard, I can discern at this distance? That Gentleman (replied he laughing) is the famous C—de da P—te, a Lord of the King's Bedchamber, a Brigadier General and Colonel of a Regiment of Infantry: His Lady, who (as usual) was married to him contrary to her inclination, soon after lost her senses, (and I think no wonder) when she found herself buckled to such a phantom of a husband; an empty tun, much noise, no substance; the veriest *Fanfaron* in love, in learning, in politics, and in military affairs; and would most probably shew himself the veriest counterfeit too, on
hearing

hearing the first whizzing of a cannon-ball; a great jester and a man of repartee, who sets the table in a roar, without the aid of wine or strong liquors, the greatest merit he has: He hates the Cardinal Inquisitor General and Regent of the Justice, (whom you see in the balcony on the King's left, and who is really a dunce, if there is one in the kingdom) though always with the greatest external shew of friendship and respect to him. The Count, on a late occasion, visiting the Cardinal's library, (which he keeps purely from ostentation, for he can hardly read) with a good number of other company, was resolved to have a hit at his Eminence, and asking the Librarian, an old Fryar, what number of volumes he thought there might be in his Eminence's collection? The other answered, he believed they were about eleven thousand. Yes, yes, friend, (replied the Count facetiously) they are the eleven thousand Virgins; the Count is otherwise a very shallow fellow, not to be trusted, and faithless as a perjured lover; which is indeed a national defect, as they make it a general rule to suit their discourse to what they believe to be the complexion of those they talk with, paying very little regard to truth, candor or sincerity.

Do you remark the Gentleman who stands next him? (continued the Doctor) He, you will allow, has more the face and appearance of a soldier, and is really one of the best among them, it is truly a pity he has not received some sort of correspondent education, for he has a strong natural turn to be a man of honor and an Officer; but now from unavoidable necessity, there has entered such a degree of alloy into the composition of his character, that it will be hard to guess right at it; yet, one may safely pronounce, that, by any comparison with most of his countrymen, it will appear highly to advantage, and the same may be said with respect to his learning and the qualities of his mind: there is, however, one part of his behaviour I have been too credibly informed of, which I am sorry for, and am very far from relishing, and is a strong instance of the effects of a bad education upon the best natural dispositions. It seems that, on the death of the late King, many of the Nobility imagined the Marquis of Pombal had formed an intention of retaining all authority in his own hands, even in spite of any declaration the Queen should make to the contrary; and upon this supposition, when they came to the palace, on occasion of that Minister's taking his

his leave of the Queen, they were all provided with their *facas de Ponta*, stabbing knives, in order to have immediately despatched the old man, in case he made any such attempt, which was the farthest thing from his thoughts. So that, after his audience of the Queen, when he came out, and was no more Minister, his very appearance and countenance still struck terror, as it had so long done, into these pitiful *Fidalgos*, who were ready to embrue their hands in his blood, and they accompanied him as usual to his carriage, with every mark of respect. Now, what provokes and mortifies me, on account of this Gentleman the Marquis das M——s, whom I really esteemed, is, not only that he should have entered into this mean dirty plot, but that he should have afterwards boasted of their base and treacherous intention against the old Marquis.

Our attention was now taken up with the enormous nonsense uttered by a tall stout Dominican Fryar, who had mounted the pulpit to preach the sermon. With a Stentorian voice he was expatiating on the superior merit of those who employ themselves in making converts to the only true religion under Heaven. He then introduced
a pompous

a pompous relation of the numberless conversion of Hereticks and Infidels ; his own holy Patriarch, St. Dominick, had employed his whole blessed life in making in almost every country of Europe, among the wicked Albigenfes, the Protestants in Germany and France, and the Jews and Moors in Portugal and Spain, without using any manner of force or compulsion, as he assured his audience, but such as proceeded from the witnessing the stupendous miracles he performed, and from the sword of the word, which issued from his mouth ; and he added, that from that time to this, no Prince or Monarch had ever been so zealous in the encouraging of converts to holy Church as her most august and Faithful Majesty there present, for which God and our blessed Lady would amply reward her, by granting her peace and prosperity in this world, and a crown of glory in the next. Let the numberless conversions (said he) wrought in this most illustrious Court, since her Majesty's happy accession to the throne, witness for the truth of what I say —let the fullen French Huguenots, the reprobate English Hereticks, and the German Followers of the cruel Calvin and impious Luther, who have in such numbers been baptized into the holy Faith within these walls,

walls, declare whether her Majesty's piety or generosity have been most forward in encouraging them to renounce their abominable errors, and profess themselves the humble and docile sons of the only infallible Church upon earth. Oh! that I had the voice of a thousand Angels, (exclaimed the preacher in a still louder tone) sufficiently to acknowledge the goodness of Providence, in sending us such a holy Queen, and to thank my own glorious Patriarch St. Dominick, for having inspired me, the weakest and most unworthy of all his children, with eloquence, with arguments, and rhetorick sufficient to reduce and overcome the powerful reasoning and and well framed objections of the noble Neophyte, whom we are now about to admit into the bosom of the holy visible Church.

The Neophyte himself now appeared, where every thing was prepared for the ceremony of baptizing him: the King and Queen stood Sponsors at the font, and the eyes of these two Royal Personages filled with joy, while the Sacrament was celebrating. As soon as it was over, the Queen most graciously went up to the new-born Christian, and wiping with her handkerchief
some

some drops of the holy water which had fallen on the collar of his shirt, she told him she hoped that would not be the cause of his catching cold, as, she assured him, it was a sort of water which never did harm to any one: The whole Court now came up to him as he stood near her Majesty, and wished him joy, while *Te Deum* was performing with excellent voices and music, to complete so august a ceremony.

I have been obliged to draw out this letter to an uncommon length on account of my subject, and could still make great additions to it; for it is an event which, to have happened in our days, must appear extraordinary and almost incredible in every part of Europe, but where we are. Farewell.

LET-

L E T T E R XXXI.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

WHEN I take up the pen to write you, I am literally often tempted to throw it down again and stop short, from the supposition that you must imagine I am imposing on you, and vamping up some old legendary tales I have met with in Spain or here, in a modern dress, so as to pass them upon you for so many facts actually happening at this time; nay, I am confident, some of the accounts I send must strike you in that light, for I know they would appear so even at Madrid, I mean at Court, because, though I apprehend there is little difference between the degree of darkness, ignorance and superstition, in which, generally speaking, the inhabitants of the provinces both in Spain and Portugal, are immersed; yet, now I have seen the Court here, I can assure you, that with regard to the

two, the case is widely different: I am acquainted with numbers of Spanish Gentlemen at Court, in the Army, and even in the Church, of the most unconfined and liberal sentiments, who anxiously wish for an entire revolution in the ecclesiastical polity of their country, but, who, from patriotic and philosophical motives, remain quiet and resigned, as they behold with grief and regret, the present Clergy still too powerful, and that mens' minds in general, are not yet sufficiently prepared for such a salutary change; but who, even now, would never permit such a ludicrous scene to be represented at Court, as Count O—h—n has just exhibited. In fact, when we reflect on the absurdity, or rather the impossibility of a man of probity, honor and true principle changing his religion—when we consider that he will never find any thing better than the love of truth and virtue, of God and his neighbour, to which he can attach himself, and that he never can comprehend, under the venerable name of religion, all that heterogeneous variety of monstrous dogmas, or the disgraceful, indecent and childish practices and creeds, which constitute the factitious modes of worship we see employed almost every where in the Christian world at present, it becomes

becomes so much the more difficult to account for the behaviour of the Neophyte, whose conversion I described to you in my last letter: he, who for forty years before, had both the Protestant and Roman modes of worship under his eye, and might much earlier have made the change in silence, without risking the loss of his reputation. It is not, therefore, without real concern, that those persons, who before respected his parts, talents and capacity, are under the grating necessity of assigning for the motives of his conduct, such as must entirely ruin him in their good opinion.

But, what is still worse, if we take a comparative view of all the other different modes of worship now in fashion, they will appear infinitely sensible, decent and eligible, when compared with that which our Neophyte has just adopted, and I myself know multitudes of persons in Spain, who would be transported with the thoughts of having it in their power to throw it off; and, to talk coolly and temperately of it, we must admit, that the Popish worship is, all together, such a bundle of corruption, of contradiction, and of the quintessence of the old Pagan and Jewish superstitious practices, collected into one mass of the

most glaring imposition that ever was held up to the contempt of the sensible part of the world, that it is now universally hooted at and despised by men of sense, in those very countries where the civil Government still protects its practice; for, being begotten and conjured into existence, at a period of the grossest ignorance, and fostered in those times which proved the most fatal to the rights and liberties of mankind, it was a natural consequence, that, as soon as men recovered their liberty with the free use of their reason, and durst look the many-headed monster in the face, they should be seized with a generous indignation at the thoughts of having been so long hood-winked, and induced to bend their necks to the fascinating power of such a phantom.

But to return to the Court——As I hinted above, it is exceedingly different from that of Madrid; those of it whom I have conversed with seem to be diffident and shy in communicating with Foreigners; most of them are either overcharged with fat, or have a diseased and sickly look—the best-looking family here is that of the Marquis of M——l—a, and even in them, though handsome, it is easy to trace that blue Jewish tint in their features, by which
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all the children of Abraham are so distinguishable. Before I go farther, I shall give you another instance of the amusements of this Court.

You must know, that on the first Friday of Lent, there is a great general procession here, in commemoration of our Saviour's being led out of Jerusalem, bearing his Cross to be crucified, and it happened that we dined by invitation the preceding day at a house near the Church of St. Roque. After dinner, some of the company proposed a party to that Church, to see the King, Queen and Court, who were to come that evening, being the eve of the procession, to kiss *os pes do Senhor*, the feet of the Lord. You will remark, they do not say the feet of an image or figure of the Lord, and you will see by the sequel, the observation verified, 'that it is impossible to admit of images and prevent idolatry.' This figure of our Saviour was much larger than the life, and was kneeling on one knee and rising on the other leg, in the act of lifting up the heavy cross laid upon its shoulders: It was set out in the middle of the Church, ready to be carried in a kind of private procession that evening, to the Church of the Convent of *Grace*, in a distant quarter of the

the city, from whence the grand proceſſion was to ſet out next day, and thoſe who were to accompany it, only waited the arrival of the Court, to pay their devotions before they began the proceſſion. In the mean time, by the intervention of a little money, the Sacriſtan carried our company to ſurvey the miraculous Image. After we had kiſſed its foot, he ſhewed us a deep wound in the leg, which a Jew had given it with a knife, with which he ſtabbed it, on being permitted to approach it, under pretence of worſhipping it; the Sacriſtan aſſured us, that the knife of the infamous Jew pierced deep into the leg, the ſame as if it had been made of fleſh, that there iſſued from the wound a quantity of blood, which was preſerved at the time, that he kept it carefully in his Sacriſty, and it would be expoſed on the great altar next day for the veneration of the faithful; he alſo ſhewed us the marks of teeth on another part of the ſame leg, which he aſſured us, happened after the following manner: An infidel Moor came to Liſbon upon ſome buſineſs, and a zealous Dominican Fryar, whoſe name I cannot now recollect, undertook to convert him: after many battles for and againſt the Chriſtian religion, the Moor attacked his antagoniſt moſt ſeverely, on the
article

article of having Images, which all the Mahometans detest; the Fryar, to support the authority of Images, told him what happened to this Image when the Jew stabbed it, to which the other replied, he did not believe it, but desired to see the mark; accordingly next day, the Fryar conducted him to the Church for that purpose, and the Moor approaching with his head, as if to examine the wound more attentively, gave the leg a bite; when, to his utter confusion and astonishment, he found the leg was warm flesh, which yielded to his teeth and they entered deep into it: The same Moor was immediately baptized and served many years after as Under-Sacristan of this very Church, and died in the greatest odour of sanctity. I certainly saw the marks of teeth in the leg; but whether it proceeded from the cause our conductor alledged I shall leave you to determine; however, the Sacristan told us, that the Image has been held in the highest veneration ever since, and so much respected, that the Royal family and the Court came yearly on the vesper of the procession to worship it; and indeed he had hardly done speaking when they came in, and after mumbling their prayers, with every mark of distraction and disregard, they approached

ed and kissed the foot with the utmost devotion on their knees, to the edification of a Church full of spectators.

After their Majesties and the Court had taken their leaves, and the procession had left the Church, the Sacristan pleased with the pecuniary attention we paid him, led us to see the famous Chapel of St. John the Baptist, which King John the Fifth had got made entirely at Rome, at a most enormous expence. In order to consecrate it, the Pope said the first Mass in it there; after which, it was taken all to pieces, carefully packed up, and brought hither with the same artificers who made it, to set it up again, with a magnificent gold lamp and two prodigious candlesticks of massive silver gilt, and weighing above eighteen stone each: After examining this Chapel, full of beautiful Mosaic paintings, the Sacristan led us to the great altar, where, drawing aside a long damask curtain, there was discovered a magnificent Image of the Virgin, with the Child Jesus in her arms: the Virgin was dressed out in splendid robes, shining with gold, and a Crown, ornamented with large stones of various colours, encircled her head; she stood upon the Moon, in the form of a crescent, and all around her were painted numbers

numbers of stars in gold, upon an azure ground, and she had the title or invocation of (*Nossa Senhora do Empyreo*) our Lady of the Empyræum; the Child had a small globe in one hand, and the scepter in the other. But what constituted the miraculous in this Image was, the information of the friendly Sacristan, who had put on consecrated gloves and his stola over his surplice, before he durst presume to look at it.

The account he gave us was, that the Child Jesus, whom we there saw in his mother's arms, grew sensibly every year, that they cut his finger and toe nails frequently, the parings whereof he had carefully preserved; and he assured us farther, it was registered in the historical Minutes of the Church, (which he offered to shew us) that, about two hundred years ago, the Child used to descend from its mother's arms, at the invitation of two children of its own size, who then came into the Church to visit it, and that they had been often seen all three together, eating their afternoon's luncheon, *merenda*, upon the steps of the altar—that afterwards the Child Jesus informed them, they would be called to Heaven on the next Ascension-day after he spoke to them, as it accordingly happened,

and they were both found dead on their knees before the Virgin, with their hands joined in the attitude of praying; that their relicks were carefully preserved under the same altar, and a yearly festival had been instituted there in commemoration of such a miracle.

After this, the Sacristan shewed us a famous Crucifix, which was brought and delivered to the venerable Father Montoya, by the hands of Angels, and assured us it was asserted from antient tradition, that it had been often heard in conversation with him.

The discreet Sacristan seemed very well disposed to entertain us with relations of that force and consequence, in all which, it was evident he spoke from his heart, and as he believed, but it was no less evident he was disordered in his senses, and on enquiry, I find he belongs to a family of great distinction here, but having when young, committed a murder, accompanied with the most aggravating circumstances of horror, not to disgrace his relations, he had been permitted to run away to Rome, where, for a long time, he did penance among the other Portuguese Jews, upon the
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steps of St. Peter's, till he at last obtained his pardon, and was sent back with commendatory letters to Portugal, on the condition that he was to serve as Sacristan in the Church where we found him. Such is the Court, and such a great part of the Nobility of this country. The Spanish Nobility is not so.

Adieu.

LETTER XXXII.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

AS I look upon the consideration of practical examples of things which really happen in a country, as the best criterion, by which we can form a proper judgment of its manners and customs, I shall, as occasion offers, furnish you with some examples of that kind, in the course of my correspondence, taking care that my information be drawn from the most authentic quarter circumstances will admit of; and in this I have reason to believe, I have been singularly happy since my arrival, by means of Doctor Allen and Colonel Priolet, and especially this last Gentleman, who is daily laying me under fresh obligations, by his repeated civilities.

I went with Lord Freeman, by appointment, to breakfast with Priolet the other morning, after which he was to conduct us
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to the levee of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and introduce us to his Excellency the Viscount of Villa Nova.

As soon as we had breakfasted, we got into our carriages and set out for the Minister's palace of the Adjuda. On our arrival, Priolet sent in word to him, that he was there with two English Officers, to pay their respects to him; and though it was rather early, we found the rooms crowded with people of all denominations, mixed together, and of both sexes. The women were all dressed in black; several of them had very long trains dragging after them as they walked. Priolet went up to an Officer he saw in a corner of one of the apartments, with whom he had some slight acquaintance: After the usual salutations, the Officer told us, we would be disappointed if we expected to speak with his Excellency the Viscount for these two hours, as he was yet in bed. Priolet then asked him, to what purpose he himself as well as all that crowd had repaired thither so soon? The Officer said he could not take upon him to answer that question, any farther than what concerned himself and two or three friends present, whom he met regularly for almost these two years

years past, and who spend their time as agreeably in conversation there, as they could do any where else. We divert ourselves (said another oldish black-looking man, with a tye-wig) as well as we can, in talking over the past history of our lives, and informing each other of the business which brings us here to represent our affairs to her Majesty's Ministers. We should be very glad (said Priolet politely to them) to be admitted members of your temporary society, and after hearing the accounts you give of yourselves, also to contribute what is in our power to entertain you. They all approved much what Priolet proposed, and even seemed much flattered to see Englishmen mix so familiarly with them; they immediately made room for us to sit down, and after a good many compliments about who should speak first, the same little black man began as follows :

“ Gentlemen and my masters, I am a Notary Public in the city of Lisbon, and, as you see, well advanced in years. I married a long time ago a very handsome Irish girl, then an attendant in the family and house of Lourical, which has always been the patron and protector of our's. I positively

tively adored my dearest wife, and believed nothing on earth was equal to her; she was indeed a Saint, and too good for this world, for she was a great devotee of *our Lady of the Rock of France**; she had not lived with me quite a twelvemonth, when our Lady was pleased to take her to herself; she died in childbed, leaving me a fine boy, perfectly her own picture. My only consolation upon such a heavy loss, was the care and education of my boy Jasper, in which I spared neither labour nor expence, to procure him instruction, such as suited the son of an honest white man, in my small sphere of life: my endeavours were crowned with success—my boy speaks and writes French as well as he does his own language, understands English, and writes as fine a hand as any Clerk in Lisbon, and was just becoming of infinite use to me, as I could not apply so constantly to writing as I did in my younger days—as to his person, he is tall, and straight as a poplar, has exactly his mother's countenance, with a complexion as clear and bright, as that of any Fo-

* A celebrated Convent of Austin Fryars in Lisbon, where there is a miraculous Image of the Virgin: The walls of the Church are covered with the trophies and memorials of the various miracles she has performed, in favour of her votaries.

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reigner. In short, Gentlemen, I was proud of my fine lad, and, till these two years past, happy in his company, when the snares of an infamous woman, with his own want of experience, deprived me of him, and have well nigh proved my ruin.

“ You all know, Gentlemen, there is a prodigious rich man in the city, of the name of B—— S—— M—— da C——ta, a new Christian, or rather a Jew, for he is one by generation and by his actions: the two ruling passions of this man's life are gaming and women; and in the first he is as prodigal, as he is niggardly in his expences with the latter, at the same time that variety of women is his delight; and in order to clear himself of those he becomes tired of, and to make room for others, he by his authority, or by means of Empenhos, either gets them creditably married, or puts them into Convents as Nuns or attendants, and all this with surprizing little expence. Among others he had in his keeping, there was an Italian Opera-dancer, and becoming very soon tired of her, because he found her monstrously expensive, a certain Trinitarian Fryar, a great companion of his at the gaming-table, and who had won a good deal of his money there, undertook to rid him

him of her, and get her well married, provided he would engage her to indulge him sometimes with her company, for which he said he had the most pressing and ardent inclination. This business being very soon adjusted, the Fryar, who had before some slight acquaintance with my son, invited him sometimes to accompany him to the Opera, entertained him in conversation, and offered to procure him a commission in any of the Regiments in Lisbon, by means of his own cousin the Queen's Confessor; telling him what a pity it was so fine a young fellow should drive a quill, instead of making a figure in the Army. This flattered the boy's vanity exceedingly, and he considered the Fryar as his best friend. In some time after, they again went to the Opera, when it happened this dancing-woman performed her part so well, as to be repeatedly applauded by the audience; among others, my boy, hardly twenty, was in raptures, and told his friend he had never beheld such an enchanting creature in his life. The Fryar assured him, that if he had a mind he should sup with her, at his private lodgings that very night, which they accordingly did. After supper, the Fryar pretended to be taken suddenly ill, and therefore my son must accompany the

lady home, where he passed the night with her.

“ Briefly, in about a month after, I was never more surprized in my whole life than when I saw the Vicar-General of Lisbon followed by his Alcaides and other attendants, who came in the name of the Patriarch, and carried my son with them to the Ecclesiastical Prison, at the suit and instance of the Signora Bettina Passerini, for having deprived her of her honor and virginity, by forcibly laying with her; and they informed him at the same time, that he would be kept in close confinement, till he should resolve to make the lady competent restitution, by marrying her.

“ I have been labouring incessantly, for these two years past, by memorials to the Cardinal Patriarch, to his Excellency here, and to the Queen herself, requesting to be admitted to prove that the woman was a prostitute long before my boy saw her; but the Trinitarian Fryar is cousin to the Queen’s Confessor, and *there* is the rub—my boy must remain in prison for life, or marry a Jezebel. In the mean time, I am ruined in my health, I have lost my business, by being so long prevented from attending to it, and my spirits would have been quite
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funk, were it not for the consolation I sometimes receive in the company and conversation of these honourable gentlemen."

The whole company made the little black man a bow, in return for the compliment he paid us at the end of his discourse. We condoled with him for the loss of his son, but encouraged him to persevere, and that as the truth must pierce sooner or later, he then would expose the Fryar's baseness, and his son would be restored to him with double satisfaction.

The next person who spoke, was the Officer of Priolet's acquaintance. He began by exclaiming against the cruel injustices committed in the promotions of the Army; said, that all advancement in it was the effect of money, or empenhos, that long services were of no avail to be attended to, unless represented by some favourite, who had interest to make them be taken into consideration, and he then continued as follows :

" Gentlemen, I was Lieutenant-Colonel in one of the Regiments of the famous city of Gôa in the East Indies, now going in nine years ago, when a troop of the plundering Mharatta Indians came down from

the mountains of the Gatte, and rifled some of our plantations upon the main land, about only three leagues distance from the island whereon the city of Goa stands. Our Viceroy thought it was his duty to chastise such a piece of insolence, and ordered a detachment of two hundred men to be ready upon the parade in the evening for that purpose. As soon as his intentions were known in the city, the applications and empenhos were infinite in favour of different Officers to command that detachment; for, thank God, our nation still supports, with honor, its ancient renown for valour, in preference to every other nation of Europe. However, after all, his Excellency the Viceroy sent for me, and said, that as he looked upon me to be the bravest man in the Garrison, he ordered me to take the command of that detachment, and execute what I should find in a paper he delivered sealed into my hands, and which I was not to open till I had passed the ferry over to the main land and marched a league into the country.

“ I accordingly passed the ferry with my command, and proceeded on my route in silence and darkness, when my advanced guard began firing, and advised me by a
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centinel the enemy was immediately before us; the firing continued, and some of the shot coming among my men, they instantly threw down their arms, and calling on our Lady of *Assistance*, made their escape, and all arrived safe, without their arms, at the Garrison, which I also reached the next morning about ten o'clock, when the Viceroy ordered me into arrest for breach of duty, and to be tried by a Court-martial, which he ordered to assemble. I had now leisure to open my instructions, which I could not do the night before, on account of the panic my men were struck with; and for which, it afterwards appeared, there was not the smallest cause, for the Mharattas had returned to their high lands, as soon as they had pillaged our settlements. These instructions, signed with the Viceroy's own hand, were as follows:

“The two Generals in Chief of this expedition are St. Francis Xavier of the Indies, and St. Anthony of Lisbon; under their orders, Lieutenant-Colonel Manoel Pessinga Tinoco will march with two hundred men, to chastise the insolence of the Mharattas, according to the directions he shall receive from his Superior Officers, and in obedience to their commands.”—An ingenious little Attorney

Attorney we then had in Gôa, to whom I shewed my instructions, advised me to stand on my defence before the Court-martial, by alledging I was not answerable for the success of an expedition whereof I had not the chief command, and that the two Saints, and not I, ought to be called before the Court. I did so; and made it appear to them evidently, that I had never received any commands, either from Saint or Mankind, but those contained in that paper, which plainly pointed to future orders I was to receive. Accordingly the Court-martial did not find me guilty, and so they reported to the Viceroy. But this did not satisfy him, he still kept me prisoner, with a centinel in my apartment in the main-guard, where I remained for three years, without pay or any other means of subsistence, till a new Viceroy from Europe arrived in India, with orders, as usual, to send home his predecessor in irons, and to confiscate every thing he possessed to the King's use. This did not mend my fortune; I was sent home prisoner likewise; and whether it was owing to neglect or want of information, on coming on shore I had my liberty, but without a single friend, or even acquaintance, for I am a native of the Brazil, and without money to purchase me a dinner,

dinner, and had it not been for the charitable Fathers of the Convent of the *Deliverance* of Alcântara, with whom I have dined daily for near these five years past, I must have perished for want. During the two first years after my return I represented my case and the cruelty of my situation (after serving her Majesty with honor above forty years) to his Excellency Martin de Mello, who at last undeceived me; told me I was out of the Army, that he could do nothing for me, and that I ought to apply to the Secretary of State for the Affairs of the Kingdom. Accordingly, I have never failed attending here regularly, and I dine as regularly with my respectable Fathers of the *Deliverance*, which is the only time I break my fast in the twenty-four hours. I trust greatly in God's divine Providence, I wait the issue of my memorials with holy patience, and as I am a great devotee of our Lady of the *Deliverance*, and sing her Terço every night with the Fryars in the Convent, I have the strongest assurance she will at last have compassion on me, and favor me with a good despatch."——

At this moment we were called in to wait on the Minister, when we would much rather have remained where we were; but
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my Lord Freeman swears he will return some forenoon to our select society of the levee-room. I own such accounts astonish me! and one would sincerely wish, they were only extracts from some Novel, or tales made at pleasure. But we are cruelly disappointed in such a supposition, by seeing before our eyes the unhappy sufferers themselves, whose words, looks and gestures, in relating the story of their own misfortunes, too forcibly announce the truth. — Oh happy country! governed by a foolish Woman, and a set of insolent worthless Churchmen!

Adieu.

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L E T T E R XXXIII.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

SINCE I last wrote you, I have received two of your letters, one dated the 3d, and the other the 17th of last month, during all which I did not write you, so entirely have we been taken up in receiving and paying visits, in entertainments, and excursions to different parts of the country. Lent is here so far from being a season of penance and mortification, that since it began, we have seen more company, and in greater variety, than we did before; we attend the Churches and processions, of which there is a grand one every Friday, in one part or other of the city, and we are always invited to see them at the house of some principal person in that quarter, after which, there is an elegant collation provided for the company, as well as tea, chocolate, cards, and dancing for those who chuse it, and you

VOL. II.

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are sure to hear some of the finest Italian airs, by some of the Ladies present; for I forgot, or rather I have not yet had time to tell you, this is quite a musical and a singing country, and there is hardly a peasant, a country girl, or a common soldier, who does not play on the Guitar, and is not provided with one of those instruments, when they have hardly a shirt to their backs, or a rag to cover their nakedness.

But, where am I rambling away from the intended subject of this epistle? which was to give you some account of, what I may call, our particular connexions here, I mean Lord Freeman and Colonel Priolet, who is one of the most sensible rational men I have met with any where; I like him exceedingly, and it is through him I gain all my best intelligence—Apropos, we have been twice at our select society of the levee-room, since I last wrote you. Oh! Charles, I heard such tales of affliction and woe, as I think it would be impossible to match by the gloomiest productions of fancy! for, however much these may resemble the truth, yet the previous knowledge of their being but fiction, according to my feelings, damps and greatly diminishes the degree of
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uneasy melancholy satisfaction I receive, on reading an affecting detail of real distress, and I am affected much more when it is told me *viva voce*, by the very parties concerned.

To return to my subject—I must inform you, I do not much like the appearance of the situation my excellent friend Lord Freeman is in here at present; I have observed him of late more pensive than usual, and I understand Prioret has been dissuading him from prosecuting his plan of the marriage with Pancorvo's daughter, though he seems to be now more strenuous in it than ever, and his friends look upon it as next to impracticable, after what has just happened, of which you shall judge, when you are acquainted with the following circumstances, many of which, as I already mentioned, I had from Prioret, who is a man of honor, and, I think, to be depended on; others concerning Prioret and Miss Welding, I had from Lady Welding herself, who is a very fine woman, for she appears perfectly sensible of the respect and attention Gentlemen are pleased to pay to her, and to have no objection to a little flirtation.

There are no less than four pretenders to the hand of Pancorvo's fair daughter, and

to all appearance, (as it too often happens) the most worthless of the four is he who bids fairest for carrying the prize.

The first of these is Lord Freeman, with whose character you are already in some degree acquainted, and of whom it is not necessary to say any thing more for the present.

The second suitor is a person I have had occasion to mention in former letters, of the name of Bernardo Soares Mendez da Costa; he is reckoned extremely rich, and a *good* man upon Change, but those who pretend to be better acquainted with his situation, say the contrary, and that he has lost very considerable sums at play, to which he is a dupe, but which he keeps very secret, that it may not affect his credit; what is certain is, that he advances money, from time to time, both to the young Lady's father and mother, and that they have promised him their daughter in marriage, but it is said, that promise being extorted only to obtain the *ready*, it is not binding, and that a noble family can never be guilty of such baseness, as to throw away their only daughter upon a new Christian.

The next pretender is the young Conde de Pedralva, whose relations applied to
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the parents of the Lady, as is the custom, and proposed the Count for their daughter, while she was yet in England, but their proposal was rejected at once, as it has also been since her return; however, the young Count has lately seen the Lady herself, and remained so struck with her figure and appearance, that he swears he must and will have her for a wife, if whole legions of Devils were to oppose him.

This Count is a great favourite and companion of the Lady's brother, Count Baldiorra, in all the juvenile amusements of the young Nobility of the country, such as frequenting the Riding-house and riding the great saddle, which is the only one they can sit upon, playing at biliards or at cards in the forenoons, with their fathers or their own valets and laqueys in the stables, and joining with them in all their ribaldry and vile discourse; but their favourite diversion is to sally out in the night-time in their cloaks, under the direction of Father Dominick, and followed by a number of bravoes they keep in their service, when they scour the streets, which are all perfectly dark, only where there happens to be a lamp before the small niches of the Virgin
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in the walls of some houses. They attack the Patroles or Rounds, where there are any, whom they generally drive before them, knock down whomsoever they meet with their bludgeons, and if they find any resistance, their bravoës are at hand, who are all wonderfully dextrous at the use of the stabbing-knife, so that they seldom return from these nocturnal excursions without leaving some one dead in the streets, which furnishes matter for conversation the day following. Though it is not altogether in order, I must add here, that Count Baldiorra is quite a reprobate, without the smallest glimpse of education, having been all along under the tuition of Father Dominick. The Count was married by his parents near a year ago, without having seen or indeed caring for his bride. After they met for the first time for the ceremony, the fair-one would by no means permit the Gentleman to sleep in the same room with her; and as it was well known to all persons concerned her affections were entirely set upon another man, the Count takes care to keep the Lady closely watched and observed ever since, not that he has the smallest regard for her, but purely to prevent even the possibility of his forehead being ornamented, which is reckoned the
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most grievous of all misfortunes here, while he himself continues his old train of visiting the Convents and Brothels, with his great companions Pedralva and Father Dominick.

I come now to give you some account of the last pretender to the Lady, though it will be no easy matter to give an adequate idea of such a worthless character. This man was born in London, but of such mean parents, that, though Priolet seems to be well acquainted with his history, he could give me no account of his origin, but being himself bound to a Stone-cutter there, after a couple of years he ran away from his master, and shortly after, it being war-time, he found means to be employed by the Gentlemen of the British Artillery at Woolwich as a Conductor of Stores, but he was soon after discovered in embezzling them and selling gunpowder, for which he was tried by a Court-martial at Gravesend, and sentenced to be hanged; but by his Majesty's clemency, no other accident happened him than his being turned with ignominy out of the service; on which occasion, the better to conceal himself, he changed his name from Scale to that of Sector, which he is known by here. This
happened

happened at the time of the war between Spain and Portugal, in the beginning of 1762, when, besides the auxiliary troops which were sent to Portugal from England, there went from different parts many other Officers to look for employment, as well as others who passed themselves for such and had never served an hour, among these, Sector putting on also a uniform, came to Lisbon, and mingling with the crowd, he got a commission of Captain of Engineers, with a number of other persons made Captains at that time as little deserving as himself. However, being now made a Gentleman, with his double pay, and master of his time, (for Engineers have here no sort of duty to perform in time of peace) he has employed it wholly in amassing of money, by every infamous means: he has introduced and sold great quantities of Foreign contraband goods, both from France and England—he is possessed exactly of that sort of duplicity and low cunning so proper for making his way in this country, and so compleatly adapted to the genius of its inhabitants—he has enriched himself, and ruined many people, by false informations and suborned witnesses, who are to be found every where for a trifle—he lends money at the most exorbitant interest he can

can extort, so that by all these vile practices, in the course of these last fifteen years, he is become exceedingly rich, and no less respected by many persons in this place, particularly the needy part of his acquaintance; as for the Clergy of the country, he is in vast repute among them, for, on the one hand, that he imposes on the English and other Protestants he falls into company with, by assuring them of how many attempts have been made by the Churchmen to make him a Papist, and because of his obstinacy his promotion in the Army is stopped; so on the other, he cajoles the ignorant and bigoted Priests, by meanness and flattery, by lending money to them and their mistresses secretly, by affirming to them he is a true Catholic in his heart, for which alone, he says, his countrymen here detest him; but what is more likely to be of use to him now than every thing else is, that he has secured the protection of the Queen's Confessor, owing to the following most private incident, which has come to the knowledge of Colonel Priolet, though by what means, it is impossible for me even to guess, nor do I press him to tell me, for the parties concerned still believe it is a dead secret between themselves.

The Queen's Confessor is the son of a peasant, of the province of the Beira, or the Alentejo, and a Carmelite Fryar; he was consecrated Bishop during the former administration, and has been very lately promoted to the rank of Archbishop *in partibus*; but so far is the ambition of this humble Fryar from being satisfied, that it is only whetted the more by such an unexpected rise, and he has now every engine at work to obtain the scarlet hat from Rome; but, as nothing comes from thence but by dint of money, especially now, that the sources of wealth which formerly flowed in copious streams of gold from all nations to that capital, are mostly dried up, the Archbishop has his agents and runners secretly dispersed all over the city, to raise money for him, by the best bargains they can make, and knowing Sector was a miser and had money, he let loose one of his keenest traffickers upon him, and after much haggling and many Jewish manoeuvres on both sides, they came to the following mutual agreement.

The Archbishop engaged to procure a Royal decree from her Majesty, ordering and determining, that within a reasonable time to be fixed on, Captain Sector was to
marry

marry Donna Lucretia, daughter of the Marquis of Pancorvo, provided that, previous to the celebration of that sacrament, he should profess himself publicly a member of the Church of Rome, that he was to be made a Knight of the Order of Christ, to enjoy a handsome pension, have the rank of Colonel in the Army, together with the privilege of her Majesty's particular protection.

On the other hand, Captain Sector on his part, engaged to pay down for the use and at the disposal of the Archbishop, the sum of fifty thousand cruzades, without requiring bond, voucher, or receipt of any kind.

Thus far I have known for some time past, and I confess I believed so little of the reality of it, that I have not scrupled telling Mr. Priolet, it was with great difficulty I could give credit to such a transaction ever having passed, it appearing so unlikely and improbable; but how are we all now astonished and undeceived, by learning, that the Archbishop sent yesterday for the Marquis of Pancorvo, and imparted to him in form, her Majesty's intention in that respect, in the manner I have mentioned above, when the poor wretch, instead of

making any objections to such a preposterous match, fell like a slave upon his knees, and kissed the Fryar's dirty scapulary, thanking him a thousand times for the high honor her Majesty condescended to do him, by disposing of his daughter according to her Royal will and pleasure.

I am just now informed the Archbishop's immediate want of Sector's money, is the reason this business has been brought thus far, rather precipitately, as the miser would not part with his cash till the other should send for the father and impart it to him, thinking thereby to ensure it beyond a doubt, and forestall every pretension to the Lady from all other quarters.—I can plainly perceive Lord Freeman is greatly embarrassed; and the young Lady herself, who has laughed at the pretensions of the Jew merchant, begins to be now seriously alarmed, and says, they may easily prevent her marrying Lord Freeman, but all the compulsion on earth will never make her marry another man. Such, at present, is the state of this business, which I pray God may soon assume a more favourable aspect: at any rate you shall know the sequel, although I have rich matter for other letters from a different quarter, which, if nothing extraordinary happens, shall be the subject of my next. Till then farewell.

LET-

L E T T E R XXXIV.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

AS I hinted to you in my last, we repaired to our society in the Minister's levee-room, to get more of that sort of information, which appeared to us so singular, but arrived there too late the first time we went, It was a day of public audience, and his Excellency was already standing erect in the door of an inner apartment, which opened on the great levee-room, surrounded by a monstrous and motley crowd, endeavouring each in particular to engage his attention; some by speaking very loud to him, others by crying, others by stuffing quantities of papers into his hands, which he passed immediately into those of two Under-secretaries standing behind him: This again was a scene quite new to us, to see the different emotions of anxiety, adulation, grief, or anger, as painted in the
the

the features of the different suppliants, while they made their representations, which all ended in conjuring his Excellency to pity and protect them, in the name of our Lord and his holy Mother, while the Minister, with a studied indifference of countenance, affected to lend a callous and equal ear to all, and to pay no particular attention to any one, but answered in general, he would put their cases in the Royal presence, and afterwards execute what her Majesty should determine.

The second day, however, we were more fortunate, and we found our friends seated in the self same corner of the room, where we had left them some days before. On our going up to them, we were received, as you may suppose, with great cordiality, and room was immediately made for us. Priolet made an apology for our having been so long absent, and expressed his hope that would not lessen us in their good opinion, for we had (he informed them) been prevented the more frequent pleasure of their society, (though much desired on our part) by indispensable avocations; and as a proof of our regard for their company, he said we were now come on purpose to pay our respects to them,

them, not having any sort of business to transact with the Minister.

The little black-looking Notary Public took it on him to answer for his countrymen: Gentlemen, (said he) I know the English well, and I honor them for their upright manner of speaking and acting, which is in most things preferable to our Portuguese policy and address; however, every nation has its peculiar customs; but as I was certain you would favor us with your company again, because you said you would do it, so I certified these Gentlemen of the same, and indeed engaged this worthy Cavalier, for the sake of entertaining you, to undergo the pain it must cost him to relate his own present situation, and the nature of the business which detains him at Court; he is a man of honor, and a Knight of the Order of Christ, and you may depend on every word he says as gospel.

Upon this, we all made an obeisance to a Gentleman, who sat in the corner, dressed in deep mourning, with the Cross of the Order of Christ at his button-hole; he seemed a middle-aged man, naturally lively, but yet appeared melancholy, as if some heavy misfortune had lately befallen him,

him, and in fact his story proved we were not mistaken in our conjectures.

“ Worthy Gentlemen, (said he) addressing himself more directly to us three, as we sat nearly opposite to him, it was impossible not to be affected on hearing accounts of such unmerited distress, as has overtaken these two Gentlemen, (pointing to the Notary and the Officer) who the other day gave us an account of their's; but if the recital of a still more bitter tale of woe, can be to them any sort of alleviation, I think I have it in my power to be of some service to them.

“ I am a native of the province of the Entre Douro e Minho, on the Northern Frontier of the Kingdom, the most beautiful and flourishing province in it. My father possessed a beautiful estate upon the banks of the River Lima, within two leagues of a sea-port town called Viana. As I was the heir of the estate, I had an education suitable to the life of a provincial Gentleman; I went frequently to the city of Porto, where I had some relations, and was well acquainted with many of the English factors and merchants there, and to one of these my father generally sold yearly from a hundred to a hundred and fifty
pipes

pipes of wine. It is true our wine had not near the body of that which grows upon the banks of the River Douro, neither did it bring a fourth part of the price: however, our friend the English merchant (and I may well call him so) contrived to give it such a body with the juice of the alderberry, which we procured for him privately, and with a proper mixture of spirits, that it sold in the London market as well as any wine shipped at Porto. My father grew also on his estate a considerable quantity of wheat and maize, which he disposed of advantageously at Lisbon, so that, on the whole, his estate brought him in between seven and eight thousand crowns of rent, and I had great pleasure in assisting him in his farming; we had a neat carriage, in which my dear mother and sister used to go to Viana to assist at all the great solemnities of the Church, such as Christmas, the Holy Week, Easter, and the Great Fair of our Lady of the Agony. There is a Convent of Capuchin Fryars upon the border of our estate, whereof our family is patron, my father had been always very liberal to these Fryars, and one of them generally said Mass to the family on Sundays and holidays; I was satisfied with my situation, nor did I meet with many of my acquaintance at

whose future prospects of felicity I had much reason to repine.

“ It happened that one morning very early, as I went with my father in our small barge down the river, to go on board a vessel we were then loading with grain for Lisbon, passing by the Castle of St. Jago, at the mouth of the harbour of Viana, we saw the Sallyport - gate of the Castle, which looks upon the water, open, and some men unloading goods from a boat, and carrying them into the Castle; this circumstance struck us both, as we knew that gate had been walled up with stone and lime for many years, and that it was so the very last time we passed by it, which was only a few days before; however, as it did not concern us, we proceeded on our own business.

“ The next time the Superintendent General of his Majesty's Customs came on his circuit in our province, to make juridical enquiry if any one had transgressed the laws and ordinances, by smuggling or dealing in contraband goods, my father was cited to appear at Viana before him, and there, after swearing on the Holy Evangelists to answer truly the questions which should be put to him, he was interrogated,

rogated, whether on such a morning he had seen the postern-gate of the Castle open, and a boat before it unloading goods? to which, as bound in conscience, he answered in the affirmative; but, as he was not bound to secrecy, he went immediately to the Fort Major of the Castle, D. S—— de C——ro, a Fidalgo, and an intimate friend of his own, and informed him of what had happened. The other embraced him heartily, as usual, thanked him for his information, and said the affair did not concern him in any shape, and that my father could do no other than depose the real truth of what he had seen.

“ In about two months after, we had accounts from Viana, that D. S—— de C——ro had, by his Majesty's command, been broke and turned out of the Army with disgrace, for the crime of smuggling contraband goods into the Castle, knowing them to be so, he being Fort Major of the same; and it was reported at Viana, that he had suffered chiefly in consequence of my father's depositions against him.

“ On this report, my father, who was then confined to his room with a sore throat, sent me to Viana to wait on and condole with him on his misfortune, and to assure

him how much he was mortified thereat ; and to tell him, he hoped he would not in justice ascribe any share of it to him, as whatever concern he had in that unfortunate affair was exactly as he himself had reported to him at the time, and no more. D. S—— then again assured me, he ascribed no sort of blame to my father, that it was a judgment of God upon himself for his sins, of which, he hoped, as a good Catholic, he should make a proper use. In short, he sent me back to my father easy and satisfied.

“ It was on the 15th of the December following, (a day I shall never forget) a little before midnight, when all our family were in bed, and most of us asleep, that I thought I heard a sort of unusual buzzing noise without—I ran to the window, and found our house was beset with a company of armed foldiers ! I was just going to enquire what was their business there, when I was prevented by a thundering noise at the great hall-door ! I called out to know what they wanted ? In answer, I was ordered to open instantly, in the name of the King and the Holy Inquisition (*da Parte del Rey e do Santo Officio*). I immediately obeyed, knowing well there was no other remedy,

medy, and there walked in first a file of musketeers, followed by Constantine Rodrigues Calvo Mondragão, an old Commissary of the Inquisition, whom I had known before at Braga, with his Notary and Ecclesiastical Alcaides; he said, he was come by order of the Holy Office of Coimbra, to carry my father prisoner thither, to answer to articles of accusation they had received against him, and ordered him to make ready to go into a litter he had ready at the door to carry him off. There was no resisting—my sister fainted away among the soldiers and servants, who had by this time filled the apartment—my father clasped my respectable mother in his arms, weeping over her for a considerable time, he then conjured her by the most precious body and blood of Christ, whom he adored in his most holy sacrament of the altar, to be resigned to the dispensations of Providence; and turning to me, he said these words: ‘My dearest George, for Heaven’s sake, take care of your mother and sister, be a father and a husband to them, in case you should never see me more; to you all three, and to you my faithful servants I give my blessing: it is, alas! all I now have to bestow.’ There was a universal howl of lamentation, the very soldiers were affected,

affected, all but the obdurate old Priest of a Commissary, well accustomed to such scenes. I had my mother and sister conveyed to their apartments, and accompanied my father to the litter; but it was not till after some time he could reach it, for his servants now crowded about him, and were embracing his knees—one exclaiming, ‘ah! my good master, what have you done, to deserve this treatment? you, who were all goodness, all charity to the afflicted’—another, wringing his hands, called out, ‘ah! what will become of me and my poor wife and children? I was born in his house, and never knew another master, oh! dear master, whither are they carrying you?’

At last, my dear father was put into the litter, and I wanted to accompany him, but was rudely repulsed. The Commissary himself got into it, after putting disgraceful irons on my father’s legs, and ordered them to set off. Most of the soldiers accompanied him, and only a guard were posted at our house, which the Notary, who also remained, informed me was confiscated to the Holy Office, with all the lands, moveables and immoveables, and that he had orders to take an exact inventory of every thing, and notified to our family that
we

we should quit it and give it up to him, as the next day.

“ After I had in some degree recovered from the surprize and agitation, which such a tragical and unforeseen event had thrown me into, I talked with the Notary, and reasoned with him so far, that he consented to our remaining in the house till Christmas.

“ Alas! it was for that very occasion every thing had been adjusted for celebrating my sister's marriage with a worthy Gentleman of the town of Barcellos, at five leagues distance from where we lived. I immediately advised him of our misfortune, but he was not to be found; he had left home with a purpose of visiting some friends farther up the country, and inviting them to the celebration of his nuptials. As soon as he got my letter, he flew to me like lightning, and arrived just in time for his bride to know him; the shock of my father's imprisonment had thrown her into a fever, which in the course of a week, ascending gradually to her brain, took her off in a high state of delirium, on the very day she was to have been married, and the bridegroom attended his bride to her grave, instead of accompanying her to the altar.

“ It

“ It may be imagined, that fortune would have now been tired of persecuting us any farther; but every thing which had yet passed, was but a sample of what I was afterwards doomed to experience. I went to the town of Viana to endeavour to find a little house or lodging, to which my dear mother might retire, and live upon the wreck of our fortune, which consisted only in the sum of four hundred moidores, my father had fortunately put at interest, into the hands of the English merchant to whom he sold his wine; but not a soul in Viana would so much as hire me a lodging, nor almost any of my acquaintance admit me within their houses; they were unanimous in considering us as abominable, as tainted and unclean, since the Holy Office had found it necessary to seize upon the person of my father, and to confiscate his estate; not one came even to comfort or condole with us, excepting that monster of iniquity, D. S—— de C—ro, who, as you will soon see, was the cause of all our misfortunes. He pretended to be extremely unhappy at our situation, and offered us his services, but in a manner which prevented our accepting of them.

“ On the other hand, the worthy English merchant above-mentioned, no sooner heard

heard of my father's being carried off prisoner by the Officers of the Inquisition, than hiring two excellent litters at Porto, he came himself with them to our house, where he found us in the midst of our distress, not knowing where to put our heads, and inhumanly refused a covering at Viana, where our persons and characters were so well known to all. What were we possibly to expect any where else? Abandoned even by him who was to have been my brother-in-law, who left us as soon as he had performed the last funeral obsequies of his bride. This generous Englishman, though a stranger to our blood, was shocked at the dismal circumstances of my sister's death, which he knew nothing of till he reached our house, and seized with rage and indignation at the unchristian behaviour of the Commissary, his Notary, and all our own relations and acquaintance, he pressed my mother and myself to get into the litters and immediately quit such scenes of horror: He conducted us safe to his own house at Porto, where he entertained and supported my venerable parent with every thing she could wish or want, to the last moment of her life.

“ As for me, he immediately offered me any money I wanted to go to Court, to solicit

licit my father's enlargement, and to endeavour to state the cruelty and injustice of the proceedings against us.

“ I accordingly came hither, and laboured a whole twelvemonth to no sort of purpose; every body to whom I told my story, pitied or seemed to pity me sincerely, but no one was to be found hardy enough to undertake any thing against the Holy Office, or to penetrate into their secrets. It was impossible for any one so much as to guess the cause of my father's misfortune; he, who was an old Christian, a Knight of the Order of Christ, who had been so often chosen Provedôr of the *Misericordia* in Viana, and was in every respect as firm and undaunted a believer as ever enjoyed the protection of the holy Roman Catholic faith.

“ Finding therefore all my attempts and efforts were totally vain, and that I was expending my friend's money in Lisbon without effecting any thing, I returned to Porto, and being overwhelmed with gratitude to him for all his goodness, I found no other means of acknowledging my sense of it than by making him a proffer of my services to assist him in the way of his business, this however he would not accept without

without my mother's approbation, which she readily granted, as soon as I proposed the affair to her; and I was happy to find how well he was satisfied with my manner of executing his directions, in purchasing the wines and dealing with the people of the country.

“ Eight years had very nearly elapsed in this manner, when I one day received a letter from the eldest son of D. S—— de C——ro at Viana, informing me, that his father lay at the point of death, and most earnestly requested to see me before he expired. After communicating the contents of this letter to my friend, I set off and arrived there, when he had already received all the rites and ceremonies of the Church; there was an altar, dressed in the apartment where he lay, whereon to begin the Masses for his soul immediately on its transit, and the whole community of the Dominican Convent was in the room to assist him in his last moments. As soon as he saw me, he said he could not die in peace, without unburthening his conscience, according to the injunctions of his ghostly Confessor there present, and which he said he would do before all these reverend Fathers: then stretching out his hand toward me, he said,

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‘ You

‘ You remember the day when I was riding along the road which runs through your estate, and stopped at a cross-road which comes into it, hard by a cross fixed at the corner of one of your fields, where you and your father were then beating and killing a large serpent which had twisted itself about the foot of the cross?’ I told him I remembered the circumstance perfectly; he then continued, ‘ it happened soon after, that your father made depositions against me before the Superintendent of the Province, by which I lost my employment and rank in the Army; I thought at that time, and almost even till this moment, that I was justified in taking what satisfaction I could for such unfriendly behaviour, and I accordingly suborned false witnesses, who deposed at the Inquisitions of Evora, Lisbon and Coimbra, (of which last you know my brother is President) that they had frequently seen your father make a practice of coming out early in the mornings, and beating that cross with his cane, and of spitting upon it; and it was in consequence of these depositions that he was taken up, though perfectly innocent of the crime laid to his charge; and it is of this that, with my dying breath, I beg your pardon, I beg
pardon

pardon of God, and of all the good Catholic Christians here present.' He had scarce uttered these words when he was taken with the agony, and in a few minutes breathed his last.

" The whole people attending crossed themselves on hearing the avowal of such a black piece of villainy! and I took care to have a certificate drawn up in due form, and signed by all who were present, at this last declaration of the defunct. My former friends, who now thought proper to take notice of me, advised me to send immediately authenticated copies of the declaration to the Inquisitions of Evora, Lisbon and Coimbra, where my father had been falsely accused, assuring me it was now impossible but that he would be released with honor, and his character and estate both restored to him. When I came to Porto with the news, my poor mother, who had been long in a weak declining condition, seemed to revive, she poured forth her thanks to the Almighty, for having at length justified her husband's reputation, and redeemed it from so vile a calumny; my matchless friend the English merchant again advised me to come immediately hither and recover my aged parent from such
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a tedious and dreadful confinement; I did so, but it was at the time of the late King's death, when all was confusion, and the new Government was not yet settled—the forms of justice, and especially of the Inquisition, are slow; every body however assured me, that my father would certainly come out with honor in the first Act of the Faith, (Auto da Fé) that should be made; and in an audience I obtained of his Eminence the Cardinal Inquisitor General, he told me the same.

“ I remained here encouraged by promises, hoping, soliciting, and daily expecting the *Bando* to be published for the Act of Faith, which was not celebrated till last October, above a year and a half after the period I mentioned.

“ On the day of the celebration of the Act of Faith, I was among the first to place myself in the Great Hall of the Inquisition: Several persons in different dresses appeared, some of them were military, and, I believe, Sir, of your Regiment, (looking at Prioret) and their different crimes and sentences were read by the Secretary of the Tribunal; the Hall was prodigiously full, and I could not stir from my place, but I strained my eyes to discover, if possible, my
father's

father's face among the prisoners, which it was extremely difficult to do, on account of the horrible dresses they all appeared in, with their heads shaved, or their hair cut short, and the abominable painted paper-caps on their heads. All the prisoners were by their sentences condemned to suffer one sort of punishment or another, excepting only my father, whose name the Secretary pronounced at last, and mentioned the reasons why he had been confined upon juridical, but false information, ordered his honor to be reintegrated and restored, and that he should be again put in possession of his estate, which the Holy Office had only taken the administration of, till his character should be cleared.

“ I instantly fell on my knees upon the very spot where I then was, and, with tears of joy, breathed out the sincerest vows of praise, of thanks and gratitude, to the All-wise and Almighty Ruler of Providence, for my father's deliverance. As soon as the prisoners were conducted out, and the Hall thinned of people, I went up to the Secretary, telling him I was the only son of the person last mentioned in the list of the Act of Faith, and begged to know if he was already out of confinement, and where
I might

I might find him? The Secretary in return, delivered me, with the greatest indifference, a paper which he desired me to peruse. Gracious God! why did I survive a moment after that dreadful instant? But I dropped upon the floor as soon as I had read it: this paper was a certificate signed by the Inquisitor General himself, and countersigned by the Secretary, testifying that my aged, my innocent parent had expired in the torments of a violent rheumatic fever in the prisons of the Inquisition three years before, earnestly praying God to forgive all his enemies.

“ When I recovered my senses, I found I was in a Lemonade-shop in the Great Square of the Roscio, and I made shift to get back to my lodgings, where I remained three entire days, without being able either to eat, drink or sleep; at last, nature nearly worn out, called for refreshment. In two days more I wrote my faithful, my generous English friend at Porto, an account of my deplorable situation; he, in the gentlest manner possible, communicated its contents to my mother, who, as soon as she perceived my father was no more, gave one loud shriek, and, after a few more struggles, breathed her last.

“ In

“ In fine, Gentlemen, here have I remained ever since, induced much more by the instances of my friend the English merchant, than by any desire of my own, soliciting the restitution of my family estate, in consequence of the sentence awarded by the Inquisition: The memorials I present to the Inquisitor General are by him referred to the Secretary of State, and when I speak with his Excellency here in audience, he sends me back to the Inquisitor General, so that like a foot-ball I am kept up between the two, without any prospect hitherto of seeing a period to my pretensions; and, to say the truth, I am mainly indifferent with regard to them: a solitary insulated being, having lost every relation I loved or valued on earth, my estate ruined, by being so long in the hands of the Inquisitors, my vines torn up or neglected, a noble forest of oaks cut down and sold, my house crumbling down without any repairs for these ten years past; I could neither enjoy myself nor my lands in such a situation, but should be every moment tormented by the remembrance of better and more fortunate days. I have little comfort farther to expect in this world, than what I can gather in the company of

such friendly Gentlemen as are present, who are charitable enough to condole with me in my affliction, and, by sharing it with me, help to alleviate, in some degree, its pressure."

Oh Charles, Horror! Horror! Horror! Had I but time to make my remarks; but it is impossible, this letter having already got to such an extraordinary length.

Adieu. Adieu.

LET-

L E T T E R XXXV.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

I AM quite ashamed of the length of my last epistle, for which I have no excuse to offer, but, that it was next to impossible to stop short in the middle of such an interesting relation, nor do I believe you would have thanked me for doing so; but I earnestly wish the Gentelman, under whose cover I remit you my letters, may not be offended at the size of some of them, and I am of opinion, you ought frankly to tell him the reason of it; I shall endeavour to be shorter in this, and abridge (as much as possible without laming it) the following tragical account of a family dispersed and ruined, not by the Inquisition, (which however iniquitous, is still an established Tribunal in too many countries) but merely by the indolence and procrastination of the Marquis of Pombal, who, whatever his

U 2 flatterers

flatterers said of him at the time, was very far from being that diligent laborious Minister they gave him out for; and he certainly did more harm by the effects of his ambition and jealousy of any rival or competitor, and consequently by suffering no sort of business to be done but by himself, and then by neglecting and throwing aside the greatest part of the detail of it, than by every other censurable act of his administration. The following relation is a glaring proof of it, and of the iniquitous disposition of his brother P—l de C——ho, the Priest, and Inquisitor General for some years before his death, which was said to have been precipitated by the late Queen's directions.

Be that as it may, the last person now to speak of our select society (excepting ourselves) began immediately after the Cavalier had finished his narrative, and addressing himself more particularly to him, said, "that however much the rest of the company condoled, as he doubted not, with him after having undergone such a series of misfortunes, yet he found in his situation something which, in many points, so nearly resembled his own, that he could not help taking a particular share in his affliction,

fiction, and considering himself as more singularly interested in it.

“ I was born (continued he) in the city of Angra, in the Island of Terceira, the principal of nine islands of the ocean, which are known under that name: my case, Gentlemen, is a virgin case, such a one as never happened in the world before; nor ever can again, till God is pleased to curse this nation with such another cruel oppressive Minister, as the Marquis of Pombal has been to it. I bow with respect to all the decisions of the Holy Inquisition; the intentions of the Members which compose that pious Tribunal are disinterested, pure and merciful, and if they are sometimes imposed on, as happened in the case of the honourable Gentleman present, [here the other made him a low bow] it is because they are men, and not infallible; but it is not till after they have taken every precaution, human prudence can suggest, to prevent all sorts of fraud or unfair dealing, nor without following the rules and institutes laid down to them by holy Popes and general Councils of the Church of God; but that any individual, under the rank of a crowned head, should by mistake, negligence or malice, presume to sport with the
lives

lives and fortunes of others, as good in every respect as himself, (which is exactly my situation) such heavy misfortunes were only reserved for our days, when the world should be governed independent of religion, and only by motives of base avarice or sordid ambition, or others even more disgraceful than these.

“ My father was master of a decent plantation in the suburbs of the city of Angra ; our family consisted of him, my mother, two sons (of whom I am the eldest) and two daughters, with a sufficient number of slaves for the cultivation of our land, and Providence seemed to second our industrious endeavours ; we lived with a fair character, happy and contented, paid our tithes to the Church and taxes to the King, besides very considerable donations my mother was remarkable for making to the Convents and the poor, when in the year 1770 a King's frigate from Lisbon entered our harbour.

“ About a week after, my father received a very polite note from the Governor General of the Islands, desiring he would be so obliging as to come and speak with him ; my father accordingly attended, and his Excellency began by paying him many
compliments

compliments upon his talents and abilities, adding, that they were not unknown to his cousin the Prime Minister of Portugal, who had charged him to make him an advantageous offer of an employment in the direction of a new manufactory the King wished to establish in Lisbon, and knowing there was no man so proper to be charged with it, he had it in command to make him a proffer of it.

“ Nothing could be more preposterous than an offer of this kind to a man like my father, already advanced in years, heavy and unweildy, with his family entirely dependent on himself, fixed and established with all his connexions about him, and limited to the island in which he was born, at such a distance from the kingdom of Portugal, where he had never set his foot, and where he was unknown: He therefore propounded all these reasons to the Governor in excuse for his not accepting of the favor, with which his Majesty intended to honor him; that in his younger days indeed, he had some knowledge of the manufactory in question, but that he had long ago dropped all notion of prosecuting it; that there were certainly numbers of persons to be found fitter than himself for the undertaking,

taking, and he therefore hoped his Excellency would approve of these reasons for his declining such an employment.

“ The Governor said, it was with regret he saw so much reason for what he alleged ; that every man certainly knew his own situation best, and that, as for himself, he had done only his duty, in executing the orders he received on the subject.

“ In about ten days more, when the ship was just ready to sail for Lisbon, my father going out in the morning to look after his ordinary business, was met by a serjeant with twelve soldiers in the street, who, coming up to him, told him he was their prisoner in the King's name, set him in the middle of them, and marching him to the water-side, put him into a barge there in waiting, and carried him on board the frigate, already under way, and which they with difficulty reached.

“ In that country we always dine at mid-day. We expected my father, and he did not appear ; we waited, sent into the fields, and to all the neighbouring houses he used to frequent, but no account could be obtained of him : we were all now
seriously

seriously alarmed, and my mother was terrified and seized with a fit of trembling, which made us fear for her life—at last, recollecting he had been sent for by the Governor, it struck me I might hear something of him at the palace; I accordingly repaired thither, and got speech of an Under-Secretary, with whom I had before a slight acquaintance. I eagerly enquired after my father? He told me, smiling, he could satisfy me, desired me to be perfectly easy, said, that he ought even to wish me joy, that my father's character and good qualities were well known at the Court of Lisbon, and had procured him a creditable employment there at the head of a new manufactory, and that by his Excellency the Governor General's direction, he had embarked that morning on board a frigate which had sailed for Lisbon; that we might be assured of hearing from him in the ordinary course of time, and of being informed he was perfectly well and happy.

“ I remained thunderstruck! I went and communicated the news to my uncle the Father Guardian of the Convent of St. Anthony, and sent him to inform my mother and family, which he did with great prudence; they were resigned, and in hopes of

soon hearing from my father, for there could have been no use in making any noise, nay, circumstanced as we were, it would have been even dangerous; I therefore had no other choice but to compose myself, and take the best care possible of our family concerns.

“ We waited with impatience for accounts of the arrival of the frigate at Lisbon, and these accounts came, but none of my father nor any letters from him; we got many other persons to write to their correspondents in Lisbon, to make exact enquiry by every possible means; the answers to all these letters returned regularly, saying, that he certainly arrived in the frigate as mentioned, and that he had been brought on shore as a prisoner, but, that it had been impossible to discover where he was confined; that his person was certainly not in any of the public prisons, to which access could be had, and which had been all diligently visited, and that he must have been carried to one of the many State prisons in or about the city, which were inaccessible without an order from the Minister of State.

“ After waiting thus near eighteen months upon the rack, what could an unhappy

happy family do, with its head and chief support cruelly torn from it? I at last took my resolution: I put my brother as a Novice into the Convent of which my uncle was Guardian, I sold our plantation and slaves, at a great discount to a neighbour, who had his lands contiguous to it, and who had returned with a handsome wife from Lisbon about fourteen months before; I put my mother and sisters as pensioners into a religious house in the city, and appropriated a certain fund for their maintenance; I took bills for the remainder of our money, and embarked for this place, to look after my father.

“ I had been arrived but a few days here, when I learned, that the same frigate which had brought my father to the kingdom, sailed about a month before upon a three years station on the coasts of the Brazil. After making some acquaintance, and consulting with Lawyers, I had my case drawn up, and presented in a memorial to the Prime Minister, who ordered in his despatch on my memorial, that the Captain of the ship which brought my father over, should inform him with regard to the truth of what I alledged. This was what I feared, the Captain was gone, and

could not inform. I gave in many subsequent memorials, but no sort of answer or despatch appeared on any of them.

“ At the end of two years, I fortunately married the daughter of one of the Clerks of the War Office, and my father-in-law exerted himself to assist me, but in vain. Soon after this I received accounts from the Terceira, that my poor mother had died of grief, and that my sisters were inconsolable. I returned thither, and as my brother had professed in the religion at the end of his Noviciate, I brought my two sisters with me hither, taking a last farewell of our native island. At last the frigate returned from the Brazil, after near four years absence. I hastened on board, and found the Captain had died abroad, but the First Lieutenant remembered perfectly well the circumstances of my father's imprisonment, and produced the receipt the Captain had taken for his person, when, by order of the Marquis of Pombal, he delivered him over to one of the Officers belonging to the Secretary of State's office, Luiz Carrilho de St. Payo. But he was not to be found, to give an account of where he had disposed of him: he had been sent abroad the preceding year, as one of the
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the Under-Secretaries to the Viceroy of Angola, in Africa. New petitions were presented to the Minister, without any despatch, and which most probably he never saw. The attention of every body was taken up at this time in the show of erecting the King's Statue in the Great Square, and shortly after, in the quartering and burning the poor Italian John Baptista Pelle, for the supposed crime of conspiring against the Minister's life.

“ The King began now to be dangerously indisposed, and the Minister seeing the end of his power drawing near, employed a trusty man, with four Clerks as assistants, to open and examine all the unopened letters which he had never found time to peruse, with directions afterwards to burn them. I have been assured, there where above ten thousand of them thrown in heaps upon the floor of his Library and of two adjoining apartments, on all manner of subjects : some, of the greatest consequence, many trifling, and many anonymous, several incendiary, and vast numbers from busy-bodies, spies, informers and delators, he had employed every where, who alledged, that all they did was from pure zeal for the King's service, and
personal

personal attachment to his Excellency. My father-in-law, being also employed in opening the letters, fortunately met with that which the Governor of our Islands had written him, when he sent my father home prisoner, and as it had never been opened, was a proof the Marquis had no knowledge of my father's having been ever sent. It was in these words :

' Most illustrious and excellent Sir,

' IN obedience to your Excellency's commands, I sent for John Simoens da Sylva Delgado, and made him the proffer of the care of the manufactory your Excellency mentions ; but, as he excused himself, I, in consequence of your farther instructions, had him seized and put on board the frigate commanded by the bearer of this, who has charged himself with the delivery of the prisoner to your Excellency's order. &c. &c.'

" On the 23d of February 1777, the King died ; and, as we all had expected that event, I had a new and full memorial of my case drawn up, and ready to present to the new Queen, and the very day after I presented it, I was told by his Excellency here, that her Majesty had already given orders for all state prisoners, or such as
were

were confined in private prisons, to be set at liberty, and as those prisons were now all open, I ought to enquire among them till I found my father. I did so instantly—I flew to the Junqueira, to Pedrouços, to St. Julian's, to Cascaes, and searched in the state prisons of all those places; no news of my father; but oh! it would have burst a heart of steel, to see the wretched figures I beheld coming out of those subterranean and infernal dungeons, and their misery could only be equalled by their numbers, and the dreadful accounts they gave of their sufferings. But I was miserable till I found my father; I crossed the river to the Castle of St. Lawrence, and went through the forts on the opposite side of the Tagus as far as Azeitam, with the same success. I recollected I had not yet been at the Limoeiro, and I got there exactly as they were in the act of taking my poor father out of one of the Segredos*,—alive, it is true—but, gracious Heaven! what a change was wrought upon him? Gentlemen, it was with the utmost difficulty I knew my father again; from a full corpulent man, he was now shrunk up to less than half his

* A very narrow confined cell, and perfectly dark, in which state prisoners are often lodged, and all access to any person from abroad strictly prohibited.

former

former size ; his legs were drawn up and contracted, from the length and nature of his seven years confinement, so that he could neither stretch them out nor walk, and he had almost lost his sight ; nay, three days after, he lost it entirely. In this piteous condition I had him carried home to my little habitation, where he now remains.

“ That monster P—l de C——ho, brother to the Marquis of Pombal, (for it was not till after the change of the Administration that I discovered the mystery of my father’s imprisonment) was the cause of our misfortune ; as he was well known during his life to be a compound of lewdness, hatred, anger and revenge. This wicked Priest had, it seems, a natural daughter, when he was yet young, and whom he was exceedingly fond of, nay, so much so, that she became his mistress, as soon as she was fit to be so, till he got her married off his hands. My father, several years before his confinement, had gained a law-suit he had about the division of some part of his lands, which joined to those of that very person to whom I afterwards sold all our estate, on my coming hither the first time to enquire about my father ; and, though

though that person to all appearance was perfectly reconciled to us, and seemed to be even exceedingly touched with our misfortunes, yet, still preserving rancour in his heart, he had vowed revenge; and he had come hither, as I already mentioned, some months before my father's being carried off, and contrived to marry this daughter of P—l de C——ho, knowing also that she served her father as a mistress, but with the express condition, that her father was to have mine with his family removed entirely out of our island, and give his son-in-law an opportunity of purchasing all our estate, for which he was also to furnish the money: So that this infamous Priest, who was naturally a black-hearted fellow, and would stick at no wickedness to serve his own private ends, had maliciously pointed out my father as a proper person to direct the new manufactory his brother wanted at that time to establish. I will here do the Minister the justice to believe, he knew nothing of his reverend brother's abominable scheme—while, on the other hand, nothing on earth can excuse or palliate his cruelty, his insolence and indolence, in paying no manner of attention to my so repeated applications concerning my father's unjust detention in prison, in not having the num-

berless dungeons, in which he buried so many people alive, strictly searched, in order to deliver my innocent father, who had never given the smallest cause of offence, and to whom the Minister himself never meant any harm.

“ All these circumstances of the incessant life of P—l de C——ho, of the marriage of his daughter, together with many others much more horrible to relate, I had but very lately from his chief confident, who, for his own sake, would never give an item of them, till he saw an end of the late Administration.

“ The unexampled cruelty of my father's treatment is admitted and fully acknowledged by the present Ministry, and repeated promises of indemnification made me; but, notwithstanding all my solicitations, I apprehend I am still at a great distance from seeing these promises realized. In the mean time, I enjoy the painful satisfaction of comforting my blind and aged parent, of smoothing his descent to the grave, towards which he seems now to be hastening apace, and of supporting my sisters decently upon the limited remains of our common fortune.”

I am

I am again prevented by the length of this epistle from making any observations on it, and shall only remark, from every thing I hear, that this is but one instance out of hundreds, of people who have suffered cruelly, owing entirely to the jealousy and indolence of the late Minister of this country.

Adieu.

L E T T E R XXXVI.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

I HAVE strange news to tell you, concerning our present situation—some unexpected changes have taken place since my last account of Lord Freeman's pretensions to D. Lucretia, which promise fairer for the completion of his wishes, though I still foresee considerable difficulties in his way; but these may also be got over, for what I have already seen is, in my opinion, a speaking and additional proof of what I have long believed, namely, that there is a particular and over-ruling Providence, which regulates and directs the actions of men; and that at least, some of the worthless, the wicked and unprincipled, whatever their fate may be in another world, are not even permitted always to prosper in this.

We were all greatly surprized yesterday morning with the news, that the two Counts
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de Pedralva and Baldiorra, with another young *Fidalgo*, whose name I did not learn, had been taken up the evening before by the Corregidôr of Belém, and carried prisoners, by the Queen's command to the Castle of St. Julian, where it is resolved they shall expiate by confinement, the excesses and irregularities they have been guilty of.

Count Baldiorra, as I hinted before, is a thorough profligate, and, with his two companions at the head of a gang of ruffians, they generally keep about them, had, about six months ago, set fire to a Convent of respectable Nuns in the city, only because the Lady Abbess had refused them admission at improper hours, to three of her Nuns to whom they were paying assiduous court: Complaints of so gross an insult had been immediately presented to her Majesty; but from the respect due to the families of these young Noblemen, and the strong *empenhos* employed by their relations to protect them, no public notice had hitherto been taken of it, and they assured themselves it was now fallen into oblivion. But the Nuns, on the other hand, whose reputation had been sensibly affected by such a flagrant piece of behaviour towards them,

them, not having been publicly animadverted on by the Queen, who was Patroness of their Convent, had still continued at work to muster up counter-*empenhos*, so as to bring the scale of justice in their favor, and this being now at last effected, nothing more was wanting to obtain the decree for the young Gentlemens' imprisonment.

But the confinement of such a worthless subject as young Baldiorra, would have been of little consequence to us, had we not discovered immediately after, that it has prevented the execution of the most abominable scheme that was perhaps ever conceived by the vilest of mankind, the plan of which was laid out by Father Dominick, for, however ready these young *Fidalgos* were to carry it into execution, they had not brains enough to contrive it.

It seems Count Baldiorra was possessed with the most violent passion for his own cousin Miss Welding, and wherever he met her was continually teasing her with fulsome compliments, and expressions of service and attachment. She, on the contrary, detested him for every reason, and always looked grave, when he happened to be in the company where she was; which the Count being sensible of, and considering
moreover,

moreover, that being himself a married man, it was impossible for him to make honourable pretensions to her, he was resolved to gratify his passion by force.

For this purpose he had agreed with the Conde de Pedralva, and came under particular engagements to him, to exert himself and do every thing in his power, to bring about his marriage with his sister, and to prevent and traverse the pretensions of every one else, provided the same Count Pedralva should immediately assist him in person, and with his attendants, to break into the house of Sir Philip Welding, and to seize his daughter and put her into a close chaise he had provided, with the necessary relays upon the road, to conduct her to his father's country-house in the province of the Traz-os-Montes, where he was to take possession of her. Father Dominick had arranged the manner of executing this business, and had engaged two Portuguese servants of Sir Philip's family, by bribes to assist them, and it was one of these, a black lacquey, who turned approver, and informed Colonel Priolet of all these circumstances, as soon as he heard the two Counts had been carried to prison.

Priolet

Prioret remained in astonishment! but told the Black he could not believe him, till he saw the carriage, and was certain the relays had been provided; he accordingly took the Black with him, and they went yesterday as far as Santarem, from whence they returned but a little ago, when Prioret informed Sir Philip's family of the whole plot and terrified them all: The old Knight swears he will not remain a week longer in such a villainous country, and has begged Mr. Prioret to sleep in his house, and that some trusty soldiers with arms may sleep below stairs, to prevent whatever may still happen, for the business was to have been done on the night of the very evening the young Gentlemen were taken up, and Prioret himself saw the close chaise and the relays of mules, at different distances, ready upon the road.

The contriver of this plot, to prevent any appearance of suspicion falling on himself, took care that evening to be far enough out of the way, at the time the blow was to be struck, and was even prevented returning to his penitent the Marquis's house at all, by an ugly accident which befel him, and to relate which, it becomes necessary to trace things a little farther back.

You

You must know, that the same day Lord Freeman left Gibraltar, a Captain S——t, of one of the Regiments in Garrison, set out also on an excursion into Spain, on his way to England, without any knowledge of each other's intentions; on the contrary, Captain S——t, for more than one reason, wished his departure might be a profound secret to every one.

Love, almighty Love, that universal active principle, which is ever employed in preserving and beautifying the whole mass of animated nature, in defiance of the numberless dilapidations of Time, Death, War, Famine and all other accidents, was the immediate cause of the journey of both these Gentlemen: Lord Freeman in hopes of finding his dearer half in Lisbon before him, and Captain S——t, prompted by the most irresistible desire of enjoying without interruption, the company of the peerless object (for the present moment) of his affections, the beautiful Donna Jacoba de Guevára y Cisneros, whom, at her own instigation and request, he carried along with him, from the arms of a husband who adored her, and who was a Spanish Gentleman of some note, settled in the Garrison of Gibraltar.

Their arrival at the same miserable *Posada*, on the evening of their first day's journey, produced those disagreeable circumstances, which happen almost always at a Spanish Inn, when more than one set of company meet in it: Captain S——t, who had been early on the road, got first also with his Dulcinea to the Inn and took possession of the only place in it, which looked like a separate apartment, so that when Lord Freeman arrived, and his servants were disposed to be troublesome to the landlady and Captain S——t, his Lordship prudently restrained them, supped very contentedly on a couple of hard boiled eggs, and a draught of wine, and slept in his cloak between two servants, in the same stable where his cattle were foddered.

The next morning, Captain S——t, who had a great deal of the romantic in his composition, learning from Lord Freeman's servants, their master was going to Cadiz, whither S——t also intended going, suddenly struck off to the right, directing his course to the Sierra Morena, the scene of Don Quixote's meditations on his mistress, and from thence to Madrid and Lisbon, and by the time they arrived here, satiety having bred disgust, S——t and his mistress
were

were reciprocally tired of each other; however, he took a genteel lodging for her in a retired quarter, where he usually slept, but spent his time abroad in dissipation and a variety of heterogeneous company to be met with in this city.

On her part, Donna Jacoba de Guevára, whose natural disposition for gallantry was encreased by the circumstances of her present situation, soon found paramours in abundance, among whom she had the advantage of counting the reverend Father Dominick, who never missed a Lady of that character on her first appearance: this abominable Fryar, therefore, who had projected the whole scheme of the rape on Miss Welding, and disposed every thing in such a manner as he was assured could not miscarry, resolved at any rate to be at a distance, when it was to be executed, and was gone upon a piece of gallantry that same evening by appointment with Captain S——t's mistress; every thing concurred to persuade the lovers they would enjoy the utmost security that evening, as they had so often done before: the Captain had dressed late, and was gone to a Ball at the public Assembly-room, from which he never returned before four in the morning,

nor did they apprehend he already suspected Father Dominick's visits to his mistress were not so much in the penitential way as they both pretended, much less did they know the Captain was to sail for England at midnight, when the tide served, and that he would on that account return to his lodgings sooner than usual, to prepare his little affairs for his departure: add to this, that S——t was particularly desirous of catching some body with his mistress that night, inasmuch as it would not only afford him a more plausible pretext for abandoning her, as he had resolved to do, but also, as he declared in his letter to Priolet, because his fingers itched to flog a Portuguese, especially if he was a Priest. How much more then was he indulged in his humour, when on coming home and bolting into the room, he found, not a Priest indeed, but two Fryars, of whom Father Dominick was one, and in a situation with his mistress, which had not in it the least appearance of penitence on her part, or of almost common decency on his?

S——t instantly flew to his pistols, and swore the first person who should speak or move was a dead man: he then called up his servant and a sailor he had brought with him,

him, and ordered them to kick the Fryar, whom he did not know, into the street, after which, they took Father Dominick, and tying him fast to one of the bedposts, they began by giving him a dozen, in the same manner the sailors are flogged at the gangway; S——t then ordered his portmanteaus to be packed up, which done, he reproached his mistress severely with her ingratitude and infidelity, and threw her a purse; after this they returned to Father Dominick, and stripping him naked to the waist, gave him a severe and hearty whipping, insomuch that his back was like a fountain of blood, which run down to his heels: this being performed, they, with the greatest deliberation, took up the portmanteaus, and went to embark on board the Falmouth packet, then un-mooring and getting under way.

However, this intrigue and disaster of Fryar Dominick will be hushed up immediately, as is ever the case here, when any similar accident happens to Churchmen of every denomination, who are all zealously unanimous in this particular, in order to keep up the credit and respect due to them from the Laity, and, we should certainly never have known a word of it, had not
S——t,

S——t, as soon as he got on board the packet, written Priolet an account of it, which he sent him by the pilot who carried her over the Bar.

This was intended to have gone by the last packet, but I delayed it in expectation of an event which has happened since I wrote you the above, which is no less than the death of Sir Philip Welding.

The Knight was certainly exceeding weakly and reduced, having ever since he has been here subsisted chiefly upon oranges, and having no appetite for almost any thing else, so that it is reasonable to suppose he was drawing near his end; but I believe it has been hastened by the account Priolet gave him of the intended attack upon his family, which they all observed at the time made a wonderful impression on him. In any event, while the family was at breakfast next morning, he was taken with a fainting fit, which returned to him repeatedly during five days, at the end of which, notwithstanding every assistance, and all the cordials they gave him, he expired almost without a struggle or a groan.

This

This again will make an alteration in Priolet's situation; and now, neither he nor Miss Welding make any scruple of avowing their regard and attachment to each other; they are indeed a charming couple, and every body here, who knows them, loves them, and seems to interest themselves in their happiness, saying they were certainly made for each other. Miss Welding presses Priolet to quit this service directly, and go to England; but he declares he will not leave this, without carrying his friend Lord Freeman and his bride along with him, so great is his friendship for him. Priolet gets possession of a pretty neat house and estate near London, though, by the Knight's will, there is 400l. yearly goes for Lady Welding's jointure, which is more than she deserves, for she not only presses Priolet and Miss Welding to marry here immediately, and which they certainly will not do till a reasonable time after the old Knight's death; but she gives proof positive, that she is serious in the advice she gives, for she takes it herself, and is to be married in three days hence, to a dapper little Englishman, who appeared here in the character of a traveller, soon after the Knight's arrival, and who followed her hither from Leghorn, as it now appears, to wait the event

event of the Knight's death. This spark, who it is evident had adjusted matters with the Lady long ago, is quite a Dilettante, and a delicate musical man, and charms the Lady so with his fine voice and his playing on the Violin and the Piano-forte, that he has made an easy conquest of her, and the woman seems already to be perfectly in raptures with him; and, on his part, he has secured for himself an income of 400l. a year, more than I believe he had before, which was nothing, for I understand he is an Adventurer.

The young student John Carlos from Porto is just arrived, and Priolet has made him take up lodgings with him, though, as he at present has his hands full, he will not have much spare time to bestow on his conversion. Adieu.

LET-

L E T T E R XXXVII.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

WE have now visited almost every thing worth seeing in the environs of this city: Many situations we found delightful by Nature, and which only wanted some assistance from Art to improve them, and even that I would have in imitation of beautiful Dame Nature, who delights in propriety, simplicity and chasteness of taste.

We had heard so much of the Aqueduct before we saw it, that it did not come up to our expectation: it is, however, a noble work, and above all things valuable for its utility, bringing a stream of fine water to the city, which before was perishing for the want of it; for, though that element is every where indispensable for the use of mankind, yet I believe the scarcity or want of it would be no where more severely felt than here.

VOL. II.

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The outlets of the city are disagreeable, because you are every where between two high stone walls, with which the orchards and vineyards are furrounded, and which cut off almost every prospect, moreover, you are scorched with the Sun's rays between them, and blinded by the dust, which is almost constantly agitated by a fine Northern breeze, otherwise very acceptable.

From this to Cintra are five leagues over a bad rough pavement, but when you get there your labour and fatigue are richly repaid by the coolness of the air, and a view of the fine rural retreats scattered along the North side of the mountain, which we visited some days ago: Here Nature, undisguised by the pitiful efforts of Art, exhibits her fantastic and enchanting beauties upon a very extensive scale, and I was delighted with traversing the stupendous rocks, wildly interspersed with wood and water: well might the Antients call it the *Promontorium Lunæ*, the Promontory of the Moon, for I imagined we had a nearer and more distinct view of that beautiful luminary, from the highest pinnacle of the mountain, on which the Antients had built a Temple dedicated to her, under the Invocation of Cynthia, from whence comes the modern appella-

appellation of Cintra, and there is not certainly a spot on the Globe, where astronomical observations might be made with more advantage, whether we consider the great height, the serenity of the atmosphere, or the extensive horizon, joined to the most commanding and unbounded prospect of the great Atlantic Ocean immediately under it on the West. Accordingly, on this very spot, we found a Convent of stupid, dull, ignorant Monks, who are so far from looking upwards, that they are bound by a vow of professional humility and obedience, never to lift their eyes from the earth—Such is the progress of science and useful literature in this flourishing country.

From Cintra we crossed the country, and came to a town called Oeyras, where stands the country palace of the late Minister, within a mile of the Castle of St. Julian, which we also visited, and returning from thence, we went through the house and gardens of the Marquis, Colonel Priolet having a number of acquaintance there. The house is a very large extensive and irregular building, with many fine apartments in it, and some well executed family pictures; among others, we saw the portrait of that P—l de C——ho I mentioned to you in a

former letter, and not in the most creditable manner; he was drawn in his Cardinal's dress, though he never lived to receive the sacred Cawl, which Ganganelli sent him, I will venture to say much more out of respect to his brother the Marquis, than for any merit of his own; but P—l died while it was on the road from Rome, and it is remarkable enough, that among a batch of Cardinals Ganganelli made at that time, he was the only one the Pope reserved in *petto*, and (as I humbly apprehend, there are no Cardinals in the next world) kept him so long there, that when he let him out of *petto*, the honor he intended was no more of use to him.

The gardens are very extensive and ill laid out, I mean for pleasure, and in regard to taste, it is plain the intention was to turn every thing to profit; they are full of orange, lemon and mulberry trees, with a large house in one part of the garden for the silkworms. The Marquis has a large estate in the neighbourhood, consisting chiefly in vineyards, all surrounded with high stone-walls, with strong iron gates, and which produce the Calcavilla wine. At one side of the garden he has built a large wine-press, with all the necessary
conve-

conveniencies, and adjoining a noble wine-cellar, with the large casks ranged in order under arches, so that I thought I was got into the wine vaults at Bremen, or others I have seen in Germany.

While we were at dinner at the Inn, two Officers of Priolet's acquaintance came to pay their respects to him; he made them sit down, and they entered into some conversation, which chiefly turned on their present disagreeable situation, compared with times past, and how every thing was now changed for the worse. They complained, that since the Marquis of Pombal had retired their town was become a desert, and that merit in the Army was now totally neglected, and men of probity and honor, like themselves, despised and laughed at, and nothing now succeeded but empenhos and hypocrites; and particularly that the Army was ruined since General Maclean and almost all the English Officers had left it.

When they were gone, Lord Freeman was curious to know who those Gentlemen were who had been so lavish in their own praises, talked so much of their virtue and honor, and had given such a flourishing account of the services they have rendered the Crown.

Crown. I suppose, Priolet, (said his Lordship) they are two good old Officers, who have seen much service, but have not interest enough to obtain the promotion due to them. On our road back to Lisbon, Mr. Priolet gave us the following account of them :

Gentlemen, (said he) when I describe to you those two men, you may figure to yourselves that I am giving you a lively picture of the major part of the Portuguese Officers. There are, no doubt, some exceptions, but, for the good of the Army, it were sincerely to be wished, the number to be excepted were infinitely greater : These are two empty, ignorant boasters, who will talk to you by the hour, of nothing but themselves, of their services, their merit and their honor ; the word *honor* is indeed to be found in the *mouth* of every one you meet, and I am affraid *only* there ; a Cocker will as frankly and peremptorily pledge his honor to attest an untruth, as a Lieutenant General, and have both nearly the same notion of what it really is ; nor is any thing of all this in the least surprising, on the contrary, it is the natural effect of preceding and evident causes : The very nature of their Government, so jealous, arbitrary

trary and domineering, gives them an unavoidable and decided turn for disingenuity, cunning and circumvention; and as their only teachers and directors, the Priests, are themselves totally ignorant of what moral obligation is, so it is impossible they can teach it to others; they place the whole merit of a good Catholic in hearing Mass, and observing a few ridiculous and futile precepts of their Church, which, if strictly adhered to, as they generally are, their consciences are set perfectly at ease; and as to any thing else, they give into the practice of every other vice, (drinking only excepted) without the smallest compunction; in all which the Clergy, and especially the Fryars set the example, yet in such a manner however, that there is scarce ever the appearance of any person leading a disorderly life, every thing being carried on under the cloak of that universal dissimulation, to which they are so well accustomed.

I doubt not but it will appear very singular, when I inform you that one of these two men is an Adjutant, and the other Quartermaster of the Regiment of Artillery we saw in St. Julian's Castle, and during the late Administration, neither the one nor the other did an hour's duty in it, and their
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being made to attend their duty now, is the real cause of their complaint of the times, and of their Commandant, who is, it seems, not so condescending to them as was his predecessor, now dead, who formed that Regiment : he was the son of a foreigner, but, being born and bred here, had adopted all the prejudices of the country ; he had moreover a very pretty wife, who knew much more than himself, and led him as she pleased, for female influence is I believe as powerful here as in France, though not half so visible. Her husband had been originally bred to the sea, and was Captain of a sixty-four gun ship, when, on a certain occasion, it was presumed he did not behave with all the spirit of a brave Portuguese, but run away with his ship from a small Algerine xebec, with not above fifty men, when he ought to have run to her and taken her ; so that, whether it was owing to that, or to his wife's fine eyes, as others asserted, I shall not presume to determine, what is certain, is, that his Excellency F——o X——r de M——a, the Minister's brother, and then Director of the Marine and Dockyards, took his ship from him and gave him a Regiment of Artillery ; and when the new Colonel came to regulate his Regiment he could, in return, do no less

less than make his Excellency's body servant his Quartermaster, and his brother P—l de C——ho's body servant his Adjutant, as you may suppose, at the recommendation of their masters, and which, for the Colonel, was equal to a command, and these are the two men we conversed with a little ago, who were constantly attending them, as long as they lived, shaving them and emptying their ch——p——s every morning; and I should be a richer man than I am, if I had a guinea for every time they have stood behind my chair at Oeyras, when I dined with their masters. You will ask me, how the Count la Lippe could permit such abuses? To which I readily answer, that Count la Lippe, in order to carry through the few points he succeeded in, with regard to the Army, was obliged to shut his eyes to a hundred abuses of infinitely more consequence. But, Priolet, (said Lord Freeman) to make Officers of servants, of fellows who abase themselves to every menial office, where was that ever done? It is (replied Priolet) the best channel of recommendation for a poor man in this country, to get into the King's service after having been in that of some Fidalgo, and the only chance he has for being paid for

it, for as to wages, it is a thing not much in use, in the way of hard cash, and very seldom expected; address in the art and profession of p—p—g too, is an excellent road to military promotion; and sorry am I to say it, but the thing is fact, and it is but fair to produce the truth on both sides; I have known too many instances of promotion being obtained by that means, upon the recommendation of some of the natives of Great Britain, who were Officers, high in rank in this service. But your handsome Catamite is the surest to succeed, because men in authority, grave Fryars, Bishops, Generals of Orders, and Pillars of the Church, who would not compromise their sacred characters so far as even to be seen in the company of a woman, all intercede in his favour, and it is quite a contest among his respectable and reverend gallants, to see which of them shall be the most successful in forwarding his rank.

But it is impossible to have an Army (said Freeman) without being properly officered. There, my Lord, we are perfectly agreed, (replied the other) and as things now stand, it will be in vain ever to expect it in this country; for those persons of the middle class, the fittest for it, and
who

who really know any thing, and have some smattering of education, all take to the Church, where there is ease, pleasure and fat benefices; and to take Foreign Officers upon the present footing of the service, would not mend the matter one jot, for they would get none but the dregs and outcasts of other services, as happened here last war, when there poured in such swarms of starving ragamuffins from all quarters, as I believe never met before; for what real professional man would leave his own country to come upon such miserable appointments? but even that I consider as far from being the worst article: it is the instability of the service I complain of—it is, that the best and bravest Officer is at every moment subject to have his heels tripped up—I don't say only by a Fidalgo, a Courtier or a Gentleman—but by whom? why, by a dirty greasy Fryar; a fellow so intolerable, that you shall have the stink of the oil of his coarse abominable habit in your nose at forty yards distance from him—such a fellow, for example, as that hound of an Archbishop who reigns all powerful in the palace now, so that you shall see men of rank and dignity kissing the scapulary, not of his Excellency, (for that is an honor but few

can aspire to) but that of a dirty Lay-Fryar, his attendant, who shaves his Excellency's fat gills, his bacon neck, and his brainless bald skull every morning.

As I hope now to be able to quit the service soon, I shall be sorry to leave the poor soldiers, for I love them, and it is a thousand pities they are not commanded by better Officers, for they have many of the qualities necessary in a good soldier. If they have once a confidence in their Officers, they will do any thing, or every thing for them, almost without any constraint. There is nothing easier than gaining their good opinion, and when you have it, you must do some very unjustifiable things indeed before you lose it : they will go any where with you, and fight whom you please, if you lead them on ; the only reigning vice I know amongst them is gaming. They will go through a vast deal of fatigue without a murmur, and live upon bread and water, with a head of garlick, as long as you please, or at least as long as they see circumstances require it, with great patience, and even contented, and care very little about any other appointments, at least, they will never quarrel with you, as to the time of receiving them.

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I was very glad we got Priolet on this topic, because I know I may depend on his information, from which I think it is easy to see, that without some great and unexpected change in this Government, it will be in vain ever to look for a good Army in the country.

Adieu.

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LETTER XXXVIII.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

THIS was intended to be sent you by last packet, had I not been prevented writing, as I fully intended, by an accident the most extraordinary ever happened me in my life.

You must know, that, as all Foreigners of distinction here, live upon a very friendly footing with each other, so to keep up this the better they have public nights in their respective houses, when the master and mistress are glad to see all good company of their acquaintance without particular invitation, and by this means there is always one house, and often two open every night of the week which is a great resource for lounging Gentlemen and idle Ladies. We had dined by invitation on the same day, at one of those houses near our own lodgings, and at night
after

after a good deal of company were assembled, had drank tea, and were sitting down to cards, I slipped out to come home and write you; and as our lodging was so near, I did not take the carriage, which was ready, but made the footman walk before me with a flambeau, and, as I came very near our own house, a fellow brushed by me running hard, and pursued by another, who was calling out to stop him, this last came closer to me and hit me a blow on the left breast, and run on; I made instantly after him, calling to the footman to stop him, which he was in no haste to do; however, as I had an excellent sapling in my hand, with a couple of strokes I brought him down; the footman coming up, begged me first to secure his hands, which he helped me to do; we searched him, but found only the steel case of a stabbing-knife; we led him into the house with us, and after tying his hands very well with cords, locked him up in an empty cellar; I then sat down to write you, and for that purpose took out my note-book, which I generally carry in a high pocket opening in the lining of my coat opposite the left breast; but what was my surprise, when, on examining the book, I found it had been pierced with a sharp-pointed knife more than

than half through, although it consisted of above thirty leaves of paper, interspersed with others of parchment and a thick Morocco cover? Was this Providence, Charles? or, what was it which thus delivered me from immediate death? I examined my coat and found the corresponding cut in it, but very small. The villain must have been an old practitioner, and knew how to take his aim, for, as nearly as I can judge, I believe, had the note-book been away, his knife would have plunged directly into my heart.

I immediately sent the footman back to the house I had left, with my compliments to Colonel Priolet, and that I should be glad to speak with him. Accordingly he came, and I told him what had happened. He seemed surprised, but said he would go and talk with the assassin, and lest he might still have arms concealed, we carried a case of pistols each with us. As soon as the villain saw us come into the apartment, he began to call out for a Confessor, supposing we were come to put an end to his life. You shall confess to me, you scoundrel, (said Mr. Priolet to him in a threatening tone and in his own language) who it was set you upon murdering this Gentleman? Oh! Sir, Sir, Colonel

Colonel Priolet, (said the wretch trembling). What, Luiz, is it you! (exclaimed Priolet in amazement) you, whom I so lately saved from the gallows? Oh! you facinorous rascal, you shall not escape so well on this occasion: Did not you promise me faithfully to quit this infamous way of life? and yet, almost immediately after, I find you attempting to murder a person whom you know to be my best friend. Oh! Sir, your honor—my life is in your hands, (returned the other) but I would not have done it, had it not been an Englishman who set me on, and promised me forty-eight mil-reis, and that my fortune should be made if I did it. If that Gentleman will permit us, Sir, I will tell you all. Priolet then desired me to leave him with the villain, which I hesitated to do, but he assured me there was no sort of danger; on which I left them, and in about half an hour Priolet came up to me, after sending for a file of men, who conveyed the fellow to a secure prison, and said to me these words: ‘My dear Costigan, you are the most fortunate man I ever knew, and you are certainly preserved for something great; for I do believe you are the first person that murderer ever set upon, whom he did not deprive of life; and what a Providence of God it was, that the pocket-

book happened to be in the way? Now, I have only one request to make you for the present, which is, that you will not take the smallest notice to any one of what has just happened; that affassin has, I think, given me the thread of a clew, which will, I hope, lead to great discoveries, and which will all be lost if you mention to any one a syllable of this business, not even to your friend Lord Freeman, whom I hope in a very short time to be able to serve essentially; but I can tell you nothing more till some days hence. Charge the footman who came with you not to open his lips about it, and let us return to the Assembly and play at cards, as if nothing had been the matter. Silence and secrecy is the only method of doing effectually all sorts of business in this country.'

We accordingly returned to our company, and I did not say a word of the affair to any one, nor Priolet to me till seven days after, though we saw each other daily; at last, he requested a particular audience of Lord Freeman, and that I might be present. He began by informing him of the accident which happened to me, as I mentioned above, and then continued as follows :

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‘ The compliment was intended for your Lordship, though our worthy friend Costigan was so near falling a sacrifice in your place, owing to your being both nearly of the same size and make, and more to your being dressed in the same coloured cloaths, on the day the accident happened. You will recollect, when we discovered the intended attack on Sir Philip Welding’s house, it was by means of two servants, one of whom (the Black) informed me of the whole plot, and I had the other secured. Sir Philip wished eagerly to have the fellow prosecuted and hanged, but I dissuaded him from it, for the following reasons, which in the present case, I would also submit to your consideration: First, I told him the criminal law here was very different from that of England; that he must begin by securing the Judge Criminal in his interest, which would cost him money, and without that Officer nothing can be done, as the Judges who pronounce the sentence are bound down to proceed according to the examinations of witnesses and other documents he lays before them, that though there are many persons sentenced to death, yet we all know there is scarce one of them ever executed, the empenhos from all parts being so powerful and numerous, to have

the criminals transported to Angola, or sent to the galleys; that the prosecution would be both troublesome and expensive, and if, after a deal to do, he got him hanged at last, what would be the consequence? In the first place, the whole people would exclaim against the iniquity of taking a man's life for a crime he only intended to commit. But that was not the worst, for I assured Sir Philip, that if he got the fellow hanged, he must himself embark on board the packet immediately after, for that neither he nor any of his family would be safe here a moment longer, this fellow having such a number of associates, who would not fail to revenge his death. Sir Philip felt the force of what I said, and begged me to give them both a sound lecture and dismiss them from his service. I did so, and was never more surprised, than to find the black fellow who attacked Captain Costigan, whom I immediately knew again, to be one of them! I began by asking him, how he could think of following such an infamous life? He told me he was starving, and had no other means of subsistence, since I had turned him out of service, and nobody would take him; that his wife was also near perishing from want, though ready to lay in, and had been lately turned

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ed off for the crime of being pregnant, by the Major of my Regiment, who had hitherto kept her, and often supported them both; that he was glad to accept any sort of employment to get a bit of bread; that Captain Sector, the Engineer, had engaged three of them, and promised ten moidors to whichever of them despatched the person he had attacked, and that he was himself indeed surprised to see that he did not immediately drop! I asked him the name of the person he had orders to assassinate. He said he was an English Nobleman of the name of Freeman; that, for his part, he had much rather gain a livelihood honestly, but, at any rate he could not starve. I told him I would give him the ten moidors immediately, if he would sign a certificate of his having been employed by Captain Sector to assassinate Lord Freeman; and if he would get his two companions to do the same, they should be handsomely rewarded. He said he would, provided I promised him solemnly these certificates should never be made use of against their lives. I assured him they should not; and two days after when I attended at the prison with a Notary Public, and the certificates ready drawn out, I found his other two confederates there waiting,

waiting, and had the papers signed in form, and gave them a couple of moidors each. All this was executed with the strongest injunctions of secrecy possible, and entreaties for the same from the three villains. I afterwards with the documents in my pocket, waited on Captain Sector, who told me he was surprised to see me. I replied I fancied he would be more so before I had done with him. I locked the door of the apartment we were in, and then taxed him with his infamous attempts on the life of my friend. He began to swear and protest there was no such thing, that it was his enemies who had—I begged him to be composed and produced the certificates, and I saw his colour went and came as he perused them, he seemed confounded, but was much more so, when I told him I was acquainted with his whole diabolical scheme, and with his paying the money to the Archbishop: I reproached him with the baseness of his intentions, in endeavouring to force a young Lady to marry such a contemptible thing as he was; told him I was resolved to expose him both here and in England, now that I had him so thoroughly in my power, and that Lord Freeman, highly provoked, was full of the same intentions, and was about to have a prosecution

prosecution commenced against him directly.

‘Sector is naturally the poorest and most pusillanimous wretch alive; and when his misconduct brings him into such a critical situation as I then had him in, he has not the spirit nor the resolution of a man to resist and go through with it. He was ready to sink into the earth, he clapped his hands on his head, stamped up and down the room, said he was ruined and undone for ever, if I had not compassion on him. I told him he deserved none, and that indeed the affair was not so much with me as with my friend Lord Freeman. He said he was not acquainted with his Lordship, but begged me to intercede for him, and that nothing of this business might take air, for if it did, he was a lost man, and if it once got abroad that he had advanced money to the Archbishop, he knew the gentlest thing that could happen him would be confinement in a dungeon for life; he therefore conjured me to pray and entreat for him, and that I would let him know the result next day, when he would do almost any thing I should require of him. I accordingly left him for that night to meditate upon his situation, and returned next morning, and found

found him in his undress, with his hair all dishevelled. He told me he had not been able to shut his eyes since I saw him, that he was miserable, and he knew his ruin or salvation was in my hands, and in those of Lord Freeman. I then told him, Lord Freeman's terms were very easy and much too gentle, considering what he deserved, and that I would engage to prevent any bad consequences to him, provided he now signed a Declaratory Act, testifying, that of his own free will, choice and inclination, he would and did, from that moment, resign and desist from all and every pretension he had or might have to the person of Donna Lucretia, daughter to the Marquis of Pancorvo, in and by marriage, nor would he, under any pretext whatever, renew any such pretensions in future. I told him I had a Lawyer in waiting, and witnesses, who would draw out the deed and execute it immediately. To this he said he freely consented, provided I engaged for Lord Freeman and myself to keep silence for ever on the subject, or at least while we remained in this country. I told him, that as far as my word of honor went I would. He said, he required no better security; and here, my Lord, is the Act done in all the forms (giving him a paper) which is I think, a capital

capital step I have gained in your favour. And now, Gentlemen, you must both be sensible of the absolute necessity there is of burying all these transactions in the deepest secrecy; I request you will avoid being in the streets after night-fall, except in your carriages, and do not appear in the same coloured cloaths at one time, for the assassin thought, and thinks still, it was Lord Freeman he attacked, as he saw the same cloaths on him, when he had been dogging and observing him for several days before.'

Lord Freeman embraced Colonel Priolet, assuring him of how sensible he was of the obligations he owed him, and said he would instantly write a note to Donna Lucretia to inform her of this wonderful piece of agreeable news.

When Freeman was gone, Priolet said, 'he was exceedingly happy to think the business of his marriage would now go smoothly on, and you cannot imagine (said he) the battles I have had to make him give over all farther thoughts of it, but in vain: One day, reasoning very closely with him against it, and telling him he must be sensible the decree for the Lady's marriage with another person, already signed by the Queen's hand, was alone an invincible ob-

VOL. II. D d stacle,

stacle, entreating him to reflect seriously on what he was about, on the consequences of offending a father he loved so much and who doated on him, as also on the bad effects his connexion with a family of such persuasions in religion might have on his children after him—he stopped me short, and said these emphatical words: ‘ Priolet, you are my friend, and I have had reason to believe so; if then you would have me continue in the same belief, I desire you will talk to me no more in such a strain; your words have no more effect on my determined resolution, than the uplifted hands of the imploring traveller upon the hungry and devouring tyger, or the hammer on the solid and impenetrable adamant: What I have resolved I will execute—I will marry her, or not survive the disappointment—my father, when he sees her, will bless the happy hour that joined us, and gracious Heaven itself will smile benevolence upon the sacred tye, which serves to make two mortals anticipate its joys even upon earth! As to her matchless capacity, her talents, (which she has improved to such perfection) and her sentiments on men, manners and religion, you would not talk so Priolet, were you but acquainted with them as I am: Oh, Heavens!

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is it possible that such rare and unmatched worth and excellence should be allowed to pine here unobserved and in obscurity? No, I will take her up from hence and plant her on an eminence, where, like the morning star, she shall shine a bright example of all that is fair, great and virtuous in woman. If you are Priolet and my friend, I conjure you from this moment forward to dispose yourself and your Amelia to assist our loves, for such a deed will deserve our eternal thanks and friendship.'—When I saw him thus positively determined, I assured him he might depend on my best endeavours to promote his happiness, and I am rejoiced to think I have already succeeded so well.'

After this, we were all three coming out to walk in the gardens of the Neceffidades, when we heard a violent noise and bustle in the street before our house, and coming to the door we saw a carriage with two grave-looking Ecclesiastics in it, which had been stopped by the shaft mule becoming rusty, so that it would neither stir forward nor backward, and the more the driver beat him, the more he reared and kicked. The two Priests were frightened. Priolet, who knew them both, run up, opened the carriage-door, and we had just time to get

them out, before the mule (now become furious) was kicking and breaking every thing to shivers. The two old Priests crossed themselves a thousand times and were terrified. They were coming from the Patriarchal Church and were going home to their chocolate. We prayed them to walk up; and tea and chocolate were immediately prepared for them, which they declared was the best they had ever tasted, they protested they were under the greatest obligations, and paid us and the English nation through us, many fulsome compliments. After Priolet's example, we in conversation gave them the title of Excellency, and, when another carriage they had sent for arrived they took their leaves.

On our walk Priolet laughed heartily, and said it looked as if these two old fellows had fallen in our way on purpose to give him an opportunity of entertaining us with some anecdotes he knew of them, which he otherwise should probably not have thought of.

'These Gentlemen (said he) are Principals of the Patriarchal Church, who by their Ecclesiastical rank, have the title of Excellency, exclusive of their being both Fidalgos. There are twenty-four of them in all.

all. They rank with Bishops, and have a much better revenue than such idle useless drones deserve. The very old man you saw, with the lank hollow cheeks and monstrous nose, owes his preferment to his sister, who is still alive, and was one of King John the Fifth's many mistresses; he is a prodigious and frightened bigot, a hoary lecher, and very charitable to the poor; the worst sort of charity in this country, because it encourages idleness, to which the nation is naturally too much inclined: But he is far enough from bestowing his charities according to the precept of the New Testament, *not to let the left hand know what the right hand does*; for on the contrary, he gives public charity at his door twice every week, when you shall see hundreds of beggars assembled in all the most diversified exhibitions of misery and wretchedness it is possible to form any idea of, and after waiting there for some hours, his Excellency appears, and distributes to each a bit of copper, something above the value of a halfpenny or a penny, according to his humour; and he being in the greatest dread of thunder, (as indeed the whole nation are) if it happens to thunder at the time of these donations, he will then give four-pence, six-pence, or, if it thunders very

very tremendously, even a shilling to each, calling out to the beggars to pray to our Lady to preserve him from danger. Though he is long since past all power of enjoyment, on account of his extreme old age, yet about four years ago he sent to a woman of the town, desiring the favor of her company. She attended; and when he dismissed her, he gave her a heavy roll of paper carefully sealed up, as a present. The poor woman thought her fortune was made, and that it was gold she had received; but great was her disappointment when she got home, and opening the paper, found only fifteen new crowns in silver: However, she waited patiently till next time she was sent for, and being then rewarded in the same manner, she thought there could be no harm in paying herself better, and brought away with her a large gold watch she spied upon his Excellency's table. As soon as the watch was missing, the Principal readily guessed which way it must be gone, sent and found it in her possession, and immediately had her ordered to prison for theft; but before she went, she insisted on speaking with the Marquis of Pombal, which she did, and told him her story ingenuously, of how shabbily the old man had used her; on which the Minister
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sent for him, and read him a serious lesson for his scandalous behaviour, ordering him in the King's name to take back his watch, set the woman at liberty, and to give her twenty moidors as a compensation for the trouble he had given her. This old man's life is pretty regular; in the morning he attends the Offices in the Patriarchal Church, then dines, sleeps his festa, receives or pays a visit or two, and in the evening has some prostitutes introduced by a back-door to a private apartment, where he sits in his elbow-chair, and is entertained by their ribaldry and base conversation, with as many fellows brought in for the purpose, and sometimes the entertainment is by them carried to more serious lengths; after which, at the hour of prayers, the numerous family of servants assembles in the Chapel, where the Principal appears, and the Terço of our Lady is sung as carelessly as possible; his Excellency then eats a light supper, and goes to bed, with the consciousness of having fulfilled all the duties of a good Catholic Christian.

‘ The other stout fresh-looking man you saw, is also of a very amorous complexion, but it is of the wrong sort, for he hates the sex, and delights in the company of boys, infomuch

insomuch that he is remarkable for it even here, where that abominable vice is so common. There was an English Nobleman in this city about two years ago, I believe on his way to Italy, who hearing of this vile disposition of his Excellency, was resolved to play him a trick, and getting acquainted, not with his Excellency's body servant, who was an Italian, and who introduced all the new game he could start for his master, but with an understrapper, who was one of his procurers, his Lordship engaged this fellow, for a good round sum, to dress up a pretty-looking girl he got for the purpose, in boy's cloaths, and present her as such to the Italian servant, for his master's use. He did so; and the servant, who was also imposed on, introduced her with great pleasure to his master, who was quite delighted, and in raptures at the sight of this new Ganymede; but the girl had been but a very short time with the old Pederast, when he discovered the imposition, beat the poor girl and kicked her down stairs, and dismissed his Italian servant, (who was otherwise a very great favourite) for imposing upon him. The underling seeing the serious bad consequences this *badinage* had produced to his friend, discovered to him the whole matter,

matter, and the poor Italian came in tears to Lord R—— C——, telling him, that he had been the cause of his losing a good place, and begged to be indemnified, for that otherwise, he could not subsist in a foreign country. His Lordship asked him if he wished to return to his own? The poor fellow said, he did most earnestly, as he hated the country he then was in, but had not money to defray the expence of such a journey. Lord R—— asked him, how much that might be? and on his answering, his Lordship gave him the double of what he mentioned, and sent him away perfectly satisfied.

This letter is too long, but I wished to send it you altogether, as appearing to me in the course of events to be only parts of one and the same scene, which would have been injudiciously separated. Adieu.

LETTER XXXIX.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE old trite proverb is not more common than true, 'that much happens between the Cup and the Lip.' When I last wrote you, we thought we had conquered almost every difficulty, and that the long wished-for marriage would have been by this time accomplished, as Lord Freeman is particularly anxious to leave this place immediately, when the imprudent zeal of a pedant, well nigh ruined every thing. Colonel Priolet and Lord Freeman have fought, and the latter is wounded in such a manner, that the physicians declare he cannot leave his apartment in less than a month; however, the friendship and activity of Priolet and the good Father Jockelyn have at last composed and settled every thing. The day for celebrating the double marriage, I mean Priolet's own with Miss Welding and Lord Freeman's with the charming D. Lucretia, is

is fixed for the beginning of June, nearly two months hence, and we are preparing every thing for that auspicious event. But it will be no easy task to give you a proper detail of the confusion we have been in, nor was I till yesterday informed of the whole myself, especially concerning the behaviour of Doctor Duncan, (whom I think I have mentioned to you in former letters) the particulars of which I had from the Marchioness of Pancorvo only last night; and, though I foresee this letter will be a very long one, it is not in my power to prevent it, without greatly mutilating the narrative, which is what, I dare say, you would not desire.

Doctor Duncan's chief employment since being here, has consisted in traversing the streets by himself, in collecting whatever he takes for a relick or an antique, in buying green parrots and a very small sort of monkey imported from the Brazil, and in stopping every Fryar he meets to talk Latin with him; and in this last particular he complains of having been very unsuccessful, which surprises him much, as he has no conception of any kind of Churchman, who should not be current in speaking Greek and Latin. The Doctor

seldom saw Lord Freeman but at breakfast, and then the conversation turned only on indifferent subjects; but by means of Timothy Cockspur and the other servants, he had got scent of his Lordship's connexion with Donna Lucretia, and thinking it his duty to prevent its progress before it should become more serious, he resolved to wait himself upon the young Lady's parents, whom he naturally supposed to patronise and encourage the affair, to explain to them what and who Lord Freeman was, to shew them the utter impropriety of such a match, and to entreat them to do every thing in their power to discountenance and discourage it. He accordingly wrote a card to the Marchioness, requesting she would appoint him an hour when he would wait on her and the Marquis, having some business of consequence to propose to them? He was answered, that next forenoon they should be glad to see him; at the same time it was impossible for them to guess what could be his business. The Doctor attended at the hour, when the Lady and Gentleman were waiting for him in form. They were struck when they saw a tall thin figure dressed in black, walk into the room, with a very large round wig, surmounted with a small hat, which he hardly moved when he

he came in, nor scarce bent his body to their Excellencies, but walked forward stiff and slow till he came to a chair set for him opposite to them, on which he sat down, and then taking off his hat and addressing himself to the Marquis, he told him his name was Doctor Duncan, and that he supposed he must have heard of him. The Marquis answered him politely, that he never had the advantage of hearing of him before. The Doctor said he was much surprised at it, and that he inferred from thence his Excellency could not be very conversant in the annals of literature, for then he would have known that he was a member of the Academy of Bologna in Italy. The other still continued to answer him that he knew nothing of Bologna, where he had never set his foot. The Doctor replied, that he had then been misinformed, having understood his Excellency had served some campaigns in Italy. ‘ Ah, Sir, (continued the pedant) had I enjoyed the good fortune to have been born in Italy, I would have travelled all over Græcia Magna: I would have spent a whole year at Brundisium, where the Roman armies embarked for Greece: I would have traced out every camp which Fabius occupied, when he hung on the summits or sides of the mountains, like a cloud
cloud

cloud over the Carthaginian army. Sir, I would have'—Here the Marquis beginning to lose patience, interrupted him, by desiring him to proceed to business, if he had any with him. The Doctor, however, not yet satisfied with the specimen he had given of his erudition, continued thus : 'How often have I lamented, Sir, that two such noble languages as the Greek and Latin should be now dead and succeeded by such a multiplicity of modern barbarous jargons, that one can hardly travel five leagues in any part of Europe, without finding a different dialect. I suppose naturally, Sir, (added he) you understand Greek and Latin?'—

The Marquis, now in a passion, at being so catechised by a coxcomb, answered him abruptly, No; and bolted out his tongue at him, as he always did when put into any heat, and was getting up to go away, when the Doctor rose also, and coming nearer him, asked him how, with such a load of ignorance on his back, he or his Lady could ever adopt the enormous and impracticable idea of marrying their daughter to so accomplished a Gentleman as Lord Freeman?

Both

Both the noble Personages were confounded at such a question: The Marquis began to sputter and fret, but it was impossible to know what he wished to say. The Lady told the Doctor, that by his grave and decent appearance, they had taken him for a Gentleman, but that by his behaviour they were on the point of changing their opinion; that, for her own part, she could not imagine what could have prompted him to come and abuse their ear with such an idle and ridiculous tale, as that of their daughter's marrying any one, especially an Englishman, without their leave and consent.

By this time the Marquis was able to articulate so as to be understood, and said, his daughter should marry a Turk, or a Jew, sooner than an Englishman; that if he imagined she entertained such thoughts he would tear her alive, and said it was a trick, an imposition the Doctor was putting on them both.

The Doctor begged his Excellency to hear him, and to moderate his passion, said he fancied he had been mistaken, but that with a little patience he believed the business might be concluded to the satisfaction of both parties. In the first place, (said he)

I could

I could not imagine the courtship could possibly be carried on without your knowledge, as it would be so eminently advantageous for your family, and I of course concluded that you countenanced it. They both assured him solemnly, this was the first time they had heard of it, nor could they have suspected their daughter capable of such a piece of madness, adding that still they did not believe it.

On his part, the Doctor desired his word might not be taken for it, but that they would inform themselves from the Lady and examine herself, and they would find she had corresponded for a long time with Lord Freeman, and that they communicated daily by letters since he came to Lisbon; all I entreat (said he) is, that you will prevent any farther intercourse between them: This they both assured him they would do, and thus ended the Doctor's visit.

In the same letter, by which Lord Freeman conveyed to Donna Lucretia the agreeable intelligence of Mr. Priolet's having got the act of resignation of her person from Captain Sector, he also informed her that Priolet had frequently taken occasion before, to dissuade him from prosecuting his intention

intention of marrying her, that they had long arguments on the subject, but that he had at last laid down to him such forcible reasons as had convinced him he was not to be shaken in his resolution, and that on seeing this, he had not only desisted from attempting to dissuade him, but had engaged heartily to assist and forward his intentions by every means in his power, as he had now done so effectually. Still, however, the young Lady could not help entertaining her doubts of how far Priolet ought to have been trusted, in an affair which was likely to meet from other quarters with so much opposition, and so she expressed herself to Lord Freeman in her answer. She was meditating on the subject, rather in a melancholy mood, when, to her surprise, her father and mother came together suddenly into her apartment, a thing which scarce ever happened before, and desired her to deliver them the key of her scrutoire; they then examined her papers, and found a multitude of Lord Freeman's letters with many copies of her answers. The father became so transported with passion, that he was seized with a fit and fell upon the carpet, and servants were called to carry him to his own apartment, where he soon recovered and refreshed him-

self with a tumbler of water; after which he sent for his wife and swore to her, by the five wounds of Christ, he would never see his daughter more, that she was a dishonor to his blood, and a disgrace to his family: He ordered a trusty maid, who had been his own nurse, and is now an old woman in the house, to take his daughter and lock her up in the dark room behind the Chapel: He ordered the servants to refuse all admittance to Lord Freeman and Colonel Priolet, and particularly to Miss Welding, saying, that these Misses together only served to turn each other's heads with tales of love and novels, and such stuff; told his wife these were the effects of her blessed English education; that her daughter must have books, and, forsooth, must learn to write, which no modest woman ever should; asked, if she thought his neighbours here were fools, and if they had not good reason for locking up their daughters? or if she imagined that, at these years, Lucretia's hot and vigorous blood was to be ruled by any other means, but bolts and chains and iron bars?

The Marchioness, who was well acquainted with the violence of her husband's temper, knew that any attempt at that
time

time to apologize for her daughter's behaviour would be vain, and she resolved to be silent till his passion, by exhausting itself, should abate: In the mean time, the old servant-maid had delivered the message to Donna Lucretia; but she replied she would not go with her till she had first spoken with her father: Accordingly, locking up her scrutoire, she came down stairs, and entered the apartment, as her father was exclaiming that she was ruined and debauched by an adventurer. O Heavens! grant me patience, (said he) and, as if the very Devil had been at work with her, to set her heart upon an English heretic, a vagabond—— Donna Lucretia unable to brook such epithets upon her lover, even from her own father, answered him steadily, that he was no heretic nor vagabond, that he was compounded of all that was great and good in——At this the Marquis exclaimed, 'Hear her, oh! damn her, hear her; she confesses it! she owns herself a strumpet! he has bewitched her! he has given her poison!' She assured him he had not; that he was all truth, all honor, and that she would marry him, or retire to a Convent for life. The father now foamed at the mouth, and called again to the maid to take her away, and lock her up as he had ordered. Donna

Lucretia frightened, with tears in her eyes, fell on her knees before her father, and entreated him to hear her only three words ; but he in a rage gave her a blow on the ear, calling out, ' Away with you, vile monster,' and then dropped himself motionless on the floor.

The Marchioness was seriously alarmed ; she commanded her daughter instantly to begone, and had the Marquis conveyed to bed, where he fell into repeated convulsions. Physicians and Surgeons were sent for, and after frequent bleeding and other applications he was brought to himself, and in the evening was so far recovered, as to send for the rich merchant Bernardo Soares Mendez da Costa to come to speak with him.

This personage, as I mentioned in a former letter, was intended for the Marquis's son-in-law, had not that design been set aside by the intimation of the Royal pleasure, whereof however the Marquis, for more reasons than one, had no intention of acquainting him, but only to make use of him for his own particular purpose. Accordingly, when the merchant arrived, he was ushered into the Marquis's bed-room, where the Lady was also present ; they both

both informed him of what they had only that day discovered of their daughter's attachment to an English impostor, who had lately appeared in the city, and describing his person to him, and where he lodged, they expressed great concern, on his account, at such a discovery, earnestly wishing some method could be fallen on of diverting their daughter's affection from a worthless object, and giving it that direction in his favour they had so much at heart.

The merchant, bowing to the ground, thanked their Excellencies, and professed he would do every thing in his power to deserve their goodness; said he thought the affair of getting rid of such an adventurer, suffered no difficulty, that his own uncle was Corregidor of that very district of the city where the Englishman lodged, and that, if they approved of it, he thought the surest method would be to have him seized and secured in prison, till the first opportunity of sending him out of the country, and that, when he was gone, most probably the young Lady's affections would cool, and obey the mandates of her parents, as all dutiful children ought. This proposal was warmly approved of, and the
 merchant

merchant took his leave to set about the execution of it that very night.

He accordingly went to his uncle, and explained the affair to him; after which the patrol of the district was called to the Corregidor's house, and received the necessary instructions for seizing Lord Freeman, with directions to lodge him in the military guard of the district till the morning, when the Corregidor would have him removed to one of the private apartments in the prison of the Limoeiro.

We had all dined that day in the country, on a particular invitation, to see a Portuguese comedy in the evening, which shall most assuredly be the subject of a future letter, so that it was midnight when we got back to town, and Donna Lucretia, in her confinement, had contrived to apprise Lord Freeman and her cousin, by means of a black-lead pencil she always carried with her, and a couple of leaves torn from her table-book, of what had happened in the family, and Lord Freeman was but just come home and undressing when a servant put a small note into his hands, which contained the following words :

“ It

" It is as I suspected—your friend the Colonel has discovered every thing to my father—He and my mother came into my apartment this forenoon, seized and examined my papers, read your letters and the copies of my answers; nay, I declared to him, when in the height of his rage and passion, that I loved you alone, and that I would be your's, or retire to a Convent for life; and this last determination is to take place almost immediately: In the mean time I am so confined that there is hardly any possibility of access to me, but I will try to send Father Jockelyn to you, and as he is a worthy man, I desire you will endeavour to gain him to your interest, if it be not already too late to attempt delivering, from a slavery worse than death,

" Your Faithful

" LUCRETIA."

Freeman no sooner perused the paper, than he called for his sword, and went out in violent wrath, which, as soon as Timothy the Irish servant, then in bed, understood, he got up, dressed, and taking the same cudgel with which I knocked down the assassin, (and which Timothy calls

calls his shillelah) he sallied out after his master.

When Colonel Priolet got home, he found a few lines from Miss Welding, informing him of the confusion in the Marquis's family, and was for a little time in doubt whether he should wait on Freeman that night, to assure him he had no hand in the discovery; at last he resolved to go, and met the other coming in quest of him. Freeman immediately told him he was a rascal, and desired him to draw. Priolet was beginning to exculpate himself, but the other was in too violent a passion, and told him he would call him coward, traitor, any thing, desiring him to defend himself. Priolet, who found himself so dangerously pushed, was under the necessity of defending his own life, and in so doing gave Freeman, who ran furiously upon him, a dangerous wound, and disarmed him at the same time; but in the scuffle, received himself a slight wound in the fleshy part of his arm. At this moment the patrol hearing the noise and rattling of swords came in; and as soon as they knew who he was, two of them conducted Lord Freeman to the guard-house at the bottom of the street, as had been agreed on;

on; and as for Priolet, whom they knew, the patrolle accompanied him to his lodgings, and, returning to their station, were met by Timothy, Lord Freeman's fervant, who had been ranging every where in fearch of his master, and he asked them rather bluntly if they had feen any thing of him? The Conftable asked him, in his turn, who his master was? telling him he neither knew, nor cared any thing about him or himfelf. Timothy fwore by St. Patrick, that if they did not give an account of his master, he would murder them all in an infant. The patrolle feeing him alone, and without arms, laughed at him, and asked him where he had his education, that he did not know how to talk with more refpect to the King's Officers? Timothy, in a rage, to be laughed at, with the firft ftroke of his fhillelah brought the Conftable down, and a moment after five or fix more of them, fo that the remainder confulted their fafety by flight: They were all armed with long fwords under their cloaks, but, far from expecting fuch a fudden attack, had not time to produce their weapons, before they faw the Conftable and fo many of their comrades fprawling.

Timothy feized the enemy's arms, and fearching their fide-pockets, took alfo a

number of stabbing-knives he found there, and went home to enquire if his master was yet returned, and finding he was not, he set out for Mr. Priolet's, bearing with him the trophies of his victory, and arrived there at the moment the serjeant of the guard, whither Lord Freeman had been conducted, was by his desire come to tell the Colonel he was there, and bleeding from a severe wound he had received. Fortunately that guard happened to be of Priolet's Regiment; his own wound had just been dressed, and he instantly sent the Surgeon, (who was still with him) the serjeant and Timothy, with directions to the Officer commanding the guard, to have Lord Freeman brought with all care to his quarters, to have his wound immediately dressed, and that he should be put to bed in an apartment he had ready for him. All which was done, and Timothy remained in the room with his master, cursing the Portuguese, and assuring him he had already revenged the insult offered him, and would still take more ample satisfaction of them, not suspecting his master and Priolet had had any difference.

It was a very lucky circumstance, that after the removal of the worthless Father

ther Dominick, (whom his Superiors immediately took care to send to another Convent of the Order, at a distance from the capital, whither they knew the news of his unlucky adventure was not likely to reach) the whole direction of the Pancorvo family fell into the hands of so good a man as Father Jockelyn; he was perfectly respected by the heads of that family, and scarce any body but himself and the old maid servant were permitted access to D. Lucretia in her confinement: Jockelyn loved and respected her, and as she soon learned that Doctor Duncan's visit had been the cause of the disturbance, and not the interposition of Priolet, as she had too rashly concluded, she entreated this good Confessor to wait on Lord Freeman in her name, to rectify that piece of information, which he promised to do, and accordingly did next morning, when it was already too late.

From Lord Freeman's lodgings, whither he first went about eight o'clock, Father Jockelyn was directed to Colonel Priolet's, where he desired to be introduced to his Lordship; but this was refused till the Surgeon should first visit him, and judge of his situation. When the Surgeon came,

he found him feverish and low ; he had slept but little, and had, as it now appeared, lost a great deal of blood ; and he was of opinion, his Lordship should remain quiet, and see nobody. But when Freeman understood Father Jockelyn was there to speak with him, he insisted on his being introduced ; and, immediately after Jockelyn's explaining the affair to him, he requested to see Colonel Priolet, who had just got up, after sleeping well, his wound being slight and no way dangerous. Priolet attended the summons, and had hardly shut the room-door, when Freeman, as well as he could, began thus : ' Oh Priolet, how shall I begin to make you an apology, to beg you ten thousand pardons for my worse than madness ? but only put yourself in my situation—a man ruined and deprived of all that is dear to him in life, by one whom he had believed his faithful friend. Read this note I received last night from Donna Lucretia, and hear now what Father Jockelyn tells me of the insidious behaviour of Doctor Duncan. Think, Priolet, what I must feel after this, and tell me how I shall make reparation for the gross injury I have done you ?'—Here the Surgeon interposed, saying, it was as much as Lord Freeman's life was worth,
to

to continue talking so for the present, and begged the Gentlemen to leave him, which they accordingly did.

Father Jockelyn and Priolet retired to another apartment, where, after explaining to the Father every circumstance of the situation of the two distressed lovers, of Sector's agreement with the Archbishop, (at which the good Father held up his hands) of the design of murdering Lord Freeman, he lastly produced the Act of Resignation Sector had made of the Lady. This the Father begged he might be suffered to take with him, assuring Priolet, that as matters then stood, he had little doubt of bringing the Marquis to reason, and the Lady too, which, he said, he knew would be the most difficult task; he promised Priolet, that, as soon as he succeeded in his design, he would wait on him, or, at least, acquaint him of it. He reprobated the proceedings of the present Government, in practising that very abuse of authority they had so severely censured in the late Administration; he said, the utmost stretch of power in such cases, ought never go beyond preventing marriages they did not approve of; but that to compel two persons to enter into such a solemn engagement, against the
inclinations

inclinations of either of them, under the veil of whatever colourable pretexts, was, in reality, no other than the quintessence of despotic insolence.

Here I must close this epistle, as my paper is entirely full ; and as I see the sequel of this detail will take up nearly as much more, it shall be the subject of another letter by next packet.

Adieu.

LET-

L E T T E R XL.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

I SHALL continue the narrative of my last without any preamble to divert your attention.

At the same time Father Jockelyn was in conference with Priolet, Donna Lucretia, for the first time in her life, experienced real distress. The cruelty and misbehaviour of her parents had hitherto no other effect on her firm and undaunted disposition, but to excite her compassion of their mistaken judgment, much more than any spirit of resentment for such unjustifiable usage. But Fame had already wafted the news of the duel of the preceding night early next morning abroad, and it had reached the servants of the Marquis's family, painted in colours, as usual, blacker than the truth: It was reported that Lord Freeman had remained upon the ground, and that

Priolet

Prioret was mortally wounded, and Lord Freeman's not returning that night to his own lodgings, lent an appearance of truth to the first part of the report. A duel in Lisbon is looked upon with horror, and as an action only compatible with the character of Heretics and Englishmen, who are desperate and have no regard for their souls, nor consideration for a future state: They have no conception of two men in their senses meeting fairly, in cool blood, with a purpose of killing each other; and the same people, who consider such an action as a piece of unprincipled madness, are reduced, by the force of custom, and a still more false and depraved notion of the point of honor, often to justify and approve the practice of treacherously stabbing, in an unguarded moment, the person against whom they have taken offence with the sharp-pointed knife they all carry about them; seldom to condemn it, and never to be shocked at it.

The old servant maid and confident of the Marquis, (the same who betrayed the secret of Donna Lucretia's connexion with Lord Freeman to Captain Sector) ran up stairs with the news to her master, though in bed, and he had the barbarity to order
her

her to carry the fame to his daughter. Then it was that Donna Lucretia's fine fpirits quite forfook her, and ſhe fainted upon the bed, from which ſhe had riſen a little before; nor had the unfeeling maid the charity to aſſiſt her, but left her in that ſituation till Father Jockelyn returning from Priolet's, requested to ſpeak with her. The noiſe of their coming in brought her again to herſelf; ſhe looked wildly and earneſtly at him, and thought ſhe read a confirmation of the news in his countenance: 'Alas! (ſaid ſhe) reverend Father, who in this world ſhall bring me relief in this diſtreſs, if you have none to offer me?' The good man begged her to explain what ſhe meant. 'Is he not dead, (ſaid ſhe) is not Lord Freeman murdered laſt night, by Colonel Priolet, all owing to my miſtake?' He immediately aſſured her it was falſe; asked who told her ſuch an untruth? ſaid he had talked with him but a little before, that he had indeed been wounded, but was in a fair way of recovery. Then he is ſtill alive, (replied ſhe haſtily, getting on her knees) Lord Freeman lives. O bleſſed Providence! preſerve him, keep him ſafe, and let all your reſentment fall only on me, for I am guilty and he is innocent.

Father Jockelyn begged her to be more composed, and to make use of her ordinary sagacity and circumspection, and said, he doubted not but every thing would yet be well. She then informed him of the maid's behaviour, and the shocking manner of telling her the news. Jockelyn was greatly hurt at it, and at the recital of her father's cruelty, and assured her, he would take the first opportunity of expostulating with him; told her, that he respected her, pitied her, and would stand by her and Lord Freeman, as far as his influence could go. 'Your marriage (added he) with that excellent young man is already made in Heaven, and all attempts on earth to prevent it will be vain. I pretend not to the gift of prophecy, but I feel myself so strongly urged by every consideration of fitness and propriety, that if you and Lord Freeman will only be patient, and persevere with prudence, I think you must, in the end, obtain the accomplishment of your wishes.' The young Lady thanked him, promised to resign herself to his direction, begged he would talk with her parents, and endeavour to see Lord Freeman often.

There was however still another violent shock in reserve for my excellent friend
Freeman,

Freeman, and, thro' him, for his Lucretia. He had enjoyed the finest sleep imaginable, almost ever since the morning that he had made the apology to his friend Priolet. The Surgeon on visiting the wound found it had suppurated finely, and had every promising appearance ; he was in good spirits, and the fever he had was very much abated, so that the Surgeon did not hesitate in pronouncing him out of danger, only advising, that he should still keep quiet, and that his spirits should not be agitated ; but, good Heavens ! how was it possible to prevent it, on receiving a letter from his mother by the packet which came in that same evening ? as soon as he perused it, he fetched a deep sigh, and put it in my hands, as I was sitting by his bed-side. It contained the following lines :

‘ Your travelling through foreign parts,
‘ has, I am apprehensive, made you for-
‘ get your parents at home. I have al-
‘ ready written you twice the dreadful
‘ news; but, perhaps, you know not yet
‘ that I am now, alas! your only parent.
‘ Last Sunday evening your dear father
‘ breathed his last—this hand which writes
‘ you closed his eyes, never more to open
‘ till this system is in ruins, and all Na-
‘ ture

' ture be dissolved. It was, believe me, a
' most affecting scene, and such as your
' generous heart could not have borne
' but with unutterable pain. Happy do I
' account you in being far distant from the
' dreadful shock. With his dying breath
' he spoke of you, and charged me to as-
' sure you, that among the last of his
' petitions to Heaven, was, that you might
' ever be the peculiar care of an indulgent
' Providence. I have by last post ordered
' an unlimited credit to be remitted you to
' Lisbon, but I beseech you return to
' England as quickly as possible, and re-
' lieve me in this deep affliction, now that
' I am deprived of the best of husbands,
' as you are of the best of fathers.'

He immediately burst into a flood of tears. I did whatever I could to assuage his grief, and prevent the bad effects it might have upon his health, I trembled for the return of his fever, and sent for Priolet, who happened not to be present. After he was a little more composed, Freeman turned to me and said, ' Oh! Costigan, tell me what is life with all its boasted enjoyments, if by one fatal blow I am thus bereaved of the greatest and the best? the company and instructions of him who was at once my father

ther and sincerest friend.' I begged him to recollect he was a man, that he possessed the spirit, the courage and philosophy of a Gentleman, and these it was now his duty to employ in supporting with becoming firmness, a stroke it was impossible now to avoid. 'Alas! (replied he) how vain and empty is all human happiness? and since our days are to be thus chequered with such a redundancy of losses and disappointments, I think it is fortunate that life itself is limited to so short a period: Deprived of the matchless pleasure of seeing and conversing with my dearest Lucretia, now lost to me, and shut up by the fanaticism of a bigoted father—my own, the best of fathers, gone to those regions from whence no tidings e'er return: How is my fond flattering dream of life embittered now with such piercing strokes of adverse fortune, all falling on me at once, with a redoubled weight of sorrow?'

At this time Priolet entered, I shewed him the letter, and after perusing it, he laboured all he could to keep Freeman easy, entreating him, for the sake of his own health, and of his dearer Lucretia, whose life depended on his, to be composed, and he promised he would. Priolet, without saying

saying any thing, took a copy of the letter and despatched it to Father Jockelyn. We both remained in the room with Freeman that night, stretched on a couple of sofas, and his sleep, though interrupted by deep and heavy sighs, had refreshed him, for in the morning he appeared more relieved, and moderately chearful.

We had scarcely finished breakfast that morning, when word was brought in that Bernardo Soares Mendez da Costa, the rich Jew merchant, was below and desired to see Lord Freeman. It was impossible for us to imagine what could procure him such a visit, for we did not then know it was at this man's instigation that the patrolle had so readily carried off Lord Freeman prisoner; however, it was resolved he should be admitted. After he came in, and the first compliments were over, he told Lord Freeman that he was a person in trade, and his partner in the same, who is an Englishman, being indisposed, had requested him to come and acquaint his Lordship, that their correspondents in London had by the packet which came in the evening before, sent them directions, to furnish him what monies he should call for, as far as ten thousand pounds, which they were ready to do; but

but, he said, they hoped he would have no immediate call for the whole sum, for that they were themselves cruelly pressed with numberless large outstanding debts, especially among the Nobility, whom they had in vain attempted to prosecute in the Courts of Justice, where their own brothers, uncles or other near relations were Judges or Assessors. Priolet and he then entered into conversation about particular Noblemen they were both acquainted with, and among others Pancorvo's name was brought up. Freeman asked him if that Nobleman owed him any money? the other answered in the affirmative, adding, that he despaired of ever seeing a farthing of it. Freeman wished to know how much it was? the merchant said he could not recollect exactly, but that the receipts he had of him would vouch for it. On taking his leave, Freeman begged the merchant to deliver all the receipts he had of money lent to the Marquis of Pancorvo to Mr. Priolet, whom he prayed to go with him for that purpose, and to discount the amount of them from the credit he had on him; the merchant expressed great satisfaction with these directions, and said he would carry them into immediate execution.

When

When Priolet returned, he produced above two hundred paltry little receipts of money advanced by the Jew, in small quantities and at different times, (with interest and compound interest regularly charged upon each) to the amount of very nearly nineteen thousand Crowns. Lord Freeman begged him to pack them up together, and send them to Donna Lucretia to dispose of as she thought proper, which he immediately did.

Two days more elapsed, and we began to be impatient at not seeing Father Jockelyn, nor even hearing from him; but on the day following we received a note, signifying that he desired to see Mr. Priolet and myself at the Marquis's exactly at twelve: We accordingly attended, and were conducted to the Father's own apartment, where he begged us to be seated, and then gave us the detail of the conflicts and battlings he had with the two noble personages, before he could reduce them to reason, the Lady particularly, who was by far the most obstinate: He said, that making use of that authority his profession and the conscientious discharge of his duty gave him over her, he had reprimanded her for her unjust and unfeeling behaviour to her daughter,

daughter, and for not restraining, by the influence he knew she had over her husband, those violent sallies of passion he was so apt to fall into: He farther told us, the greatest struggle he always experienced in the spiritual direction of his noble penitent consisted in repressing the burning and intemperate zeal she was ever too forward to exhibit in the cause of holy Church, and whatever she judged to be the service of God: her constant theme and general reply was, the Church, the Church—the authority of the Church was absolute and infallible, and above all Law, Scripture and Tradition; that she had a compulsive power to make stubborn sinners bend to the yoke; that the Council of Trent was a holy Council, directed by the spirit of God, and that it repudiated such marriages, as that proposed for her daughter, and that, unless Lord Freeman turned Catholic she could never give her consent to it, and even if he did, she said, it would be still impracticable, on account of her Majesty's pleasure being already signified to them in that respect, and from which it was impossible to depart, were they ever so much inclined to it.

I replied to her (continued this conscientious Priest) by observing, that her zeal

was not according to knowledge, that she laboured under a gross mistake, if she thought that either the publication of the blessed Gospel, or its continuation in its primitive purity, ever depended on compulsion, or on the feeble arm of flesh; that such injudicious zeal in a good cause, was exactly what had all along done it so much difference; that it was impious once to suppose the Omnipotent Founder of the Christian Religion would ever abandon what he himself had established; that to dislike or persecute any person for any difference of opinion in religion, or to force him to renounce that opinion, without the fullest interior conviction, was to fly directly in the face of the most solemn precept the Son of God has left us, which is that of love and charity to all men, even to our very enemies: I told them both, that their behaviour to their daughter was so extraordinary and unexampled, that if they persisted in it, they were under a mortal sin, from which it would be impossible for me to absolve them, for that such obstinacy rendered it of the deepest dye; that therefore, they must recur for absolution to higher powers, because I trembled at the thoughts of prostituting the Sacrament of Penance in such a manner; that instead of returning daily
thanks

thanks to the Almighty, for having given them such an accomplished daughter, they were ungrateful in the highest degree, for such a distinguishing mark of his goodness: That with respect to the intimation which had been given of her Majesty's pleasure, that plea was now of no force, for that I had in my possession a formal Act of Resignation of all pretensions to the young Lady, on the part of the person her Majesty was pleased to destine for their daughter. This paper I delivered into the Marquis's hand, and was glad to see both him and the Lady peruse it with the most evident marks of surprise. I also requested that D. Lucretia might be released from the dark hole into which they had thrust her, and restored to her own apartment, leaving them for that day to reflect on what I had said, which I plainly perceived had made impression.

The Marquis went that same afternoon to the Palace with Captain Sector's paper, obtained an audience of the Archbishop and presented it to him. After reading it with attention, he said that such being the case, her Majesty had no objection to his daughter's marrying whoever he judged proper. When the Marquis returned in the evening Donna Lucretia had her liberty, and when

she came before her parents, they even made a sort of apology to their daughter, who kissed their hands, begged their blessing and melted into tears.

The next forenoon, which was yesterday, I attacked them again when the young Lady was present; we had very long arguments, though I found it easy to answer all their objections, of which I shall not now trouble you with the recital. At last, the Marquis said to me, ‘Do you really apprehend, Father, there is no sin, no real danger in allowing my daughter to marry a person brought up in the English persuasion? will it not be looked upon by the strict thinking people as a——’ Without giving him time to finish his sentence, I replied to him, ‘By this sacred habit which I wear, Sir, your ignorance astonishes me! and I did not imagine you had been so ill informed: Are you yet to learn that it is a point of pious policy in our Church, to authorise such marriages as she does, in hopes the charms of the fair sex may bring over the husbands to the same belief, as experience has often shewn to be the case, and who ever bid fairer for doing so than the young Lady present? Sir, the gaining over a family of Lord Freeman’s consequence, will
be

be a gracious and most acceptable offering in the presence of God, it will be a signal piece of service done to the Church, and a most meritorious work in the eyes of all the faithful; besides, Sir, all the circumstances of the reciprocal and honorable affection between Lord Freeman and this young Lady, the whole rise and progress whereof I am now well informed of, and which they so earnestly desire to sanctify by the holy sacrament of matrimony, indicate plainly, as with a rod, the will of the Almighty in the disposal of your daughter, and it would therefore be criminal, highly criminal in you or your Lady any longer to oppose it.' To this argument they both then answered with one voice, 'Then let the will of the Almighty be done.'

But what followed appeared to me still more like the intervention of a particular Providence, for yesterday, at the time we were settling this business, a servant brought word that Carlos Soares da Costa from the Brazils begged to speak with the Marquis, who could not recollect any person of that name he was acquainted with. However, he ordered him to be introduced, and was surprised beyond measure to see a person,
who

who he had been assured by that person's own brother, was dead a twelvemonth before : it was no other than the elder brother of Bernardo Soares Mendez da Costa, who had given him out for dead in the Brazils, and shewed a forged copy of his will, by which he had left him a great fortune, all with a view to support his own credit on the Exchange here. This man likewise informed the Marquis, that on inspecting his brother's accounts, he found he had squandered at play almost all the money and value of the effects he had been remitting him home for years before ; that since his arrival he had been assured his brother was on the point of marrying his daughter, for which reason he had taken the liberty of waiting on him, to acquaint him of his real situation, and prevent him from involving the Marquis, or any of his family in misfortunes of his own creating. They all expressed to him how sensible they were of his kindness and friendship in thus advising them.

When this man was gone the Marquis expressed great uneasiness, so much that I remarked it to his Lady, and told himself, that if he ever had an intention of marrying his daughter to that man's brother, he ought

ought much rather to rejoice at such a lucky escape. There is, Sir, (said I to him) often an unseen, a kind conducting hand which directs our course involuntarily, and preserves us from danger in spite of ourselves, and such, I think, is this accident, which has happened you this moment. The Marchioness whispered me her husband's uneasiness proceeded from considerable sums of money he owed this Bernardo Soares, who would now certainly call on him for it, as his affairs were in so bad a situation. On this, Donna Lucretia, who overheard what her mother said, told her that her father did not owe him a farthing; the Marchioness desired her to be quiet, for that she was not acquainted with the circumstances; the young Lady assured her she was, and produced all her father's receipts, tied up in a silk handkerchief. This surprised us all again, for I at that time knew nothing of it; above all the Marquis seemed astonished, till D. Lucretia explained how she came by them. The Marquis then went and embraced his daughter, and I saw the tears trickling down his cheeks, as he sat down again, fetching a deep sigh, and pronounced these words, 'Ah! sempre saõ Inglezes,' they always behave like Englishmen.

To

To conclude, Gentlemen, they are now as well disposed for the marriage, as they were before averse to it; they are waiting for you, to settle all the circumstances, knowing you both to be Lord Freeman's intimate and bosom friends; but I thought, before you saw them, it was necessary to give you this previous information.

Father Jockelyn then ushered us into the apartment where they were. They were extremely gracious, and enquired particularly concerning the state of Lord Freeman's health; every thing was arranged to our mutual satisfaction, and we almost flew back to Freeman with the news. A sudden gleam of joy overspread his face, and he has recovered surprisingly every day since; he walks about in his apartment, though the Surgeon will not yet venture him abroad. Donna Lucretia—but I must reserve a paragraph or more for that angel to herself; all I shall say of her here is, that she has made her cousin Miss Welding come and live with her, till the day of their marriage, and we visit them now frequently. They will be married in about five weeks hence, soon after which I think we shall all embark for Old England. Adieu.

L E T-

L E T T E R XLI.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

WHEN I promised in a former letter to give you an account of a theatrical representation we had been present at, the evening which preceded all our confusion, I did not then imagine I should be able to join to it the account of a *real* farce I have seen performed by this whole Court since, which in ridicule and burlesque, exceeds, in my opinion, every thing the grossest of all farcical performances ever produced, in the grossest times, upon a theatre.

There is no public theatre here at present, the pious Queen not chusing to permit such a school of immorality in a public manner, much less would she suffer women to exhibit on the stage, were it open, being of opinion, that permitting women thus to act in public, would have too much the appearance of patronizing the favourite vice of her country; for the principal object is to

obviate public scandal, and this agrees with what I have mentioned on former occasions, as well as with a standing advice the old Fryars in this country are ever giving to the young ones, *si non caste, tantummodo caute*, 'if you cannot be chaste, at least be cautious.' Accordingly the wits here say, her Majesty, by virtue of her absolute authority, may prevent the women from acting in public, but, they thank God, it is not in her power to prevent them from playing their parts in private.

It was on occasion of the anniversary of a marriage, that we were invited to dine, as well as the British Envoy and several other persons of note at a Nobleman's country-house, about six miles from hence, where there was a numerous company assembled. During dinner, and especially the desert, which was elegant, the Motes, and the Glozas* flew about the room in abundance; among others, two grave and learned Fryars, laying aside the usual austerity of their behaviour, seemed entirely devoted to wit, mirth and good humour, and one of them even plyed his glass so heartily that the effects of it were perfectly visible before the desert was over, and before the whole

* For the explanation of a Mote and a Gloza, see next letter.

company

company rose from table his Reverence was led reeling to bed, a sight many of the company appeared to be extremely shocked at, being here so very uncommon; the men at dinner drink fine cold water in abundance, and seldom above two half glasses of wine, and as for the Ladies, scarce any of them knows the taste of it: A drunkard is held in contempt and detestation, and the very appellation of (*Bebado*) drunkard, seriously applied, is reckoned equal to the bitterest term of reproach that can be bestowed in the English language; on the contrary, nothing is more common among friends and acquaintance in conversation, than to give and receive the lie reciprocally, in serious as well as jocular discourse, without any sort of offence being taken. Such are the opposite customs of different nations, even in our limited Continent of Europe, and this should teach us not to be surprised at finding a still greater difference when we look farther abroad into the world. And here I must subjoin an anecdote I was only acquainted with a few days ago by an old and respectable English merchant of this place, to whom I happened to pay a forenoon visit, as I think it comes in somewhat to the purpose.

We were leaning over the balcony of his apartment, conversing about indifferent matters, when the old Gentleman desired me to remark a stout big man coming on horseback, he was dressed in a scarlet uniform with very broad gold lace; he looked fierce, haughty and stiff as he went along, observing all the rules of equitation with a scrupulous nicety. I suppose (said I to my friend) he is a Fidalgo and a General Officer. You are right, (replied he) sit down and you shall hear. During the war in 1762, that Gentleman raised a troop of horse for the service at his own expence, and in return he then obtained the rank of Captain in the Army; having several good horses in his troop, there was a fine Spanish one particularly, for which Major Luttrell, of Colonel Burgoyne's English Regiment of Light Dragoons then serving here, took a fancy, and was desirous of purchasing him: They accordingly entered on a bargain before witnesses, and it was agreed he was to have the horse the same evening for sixty moidors; but before evening came the Captain changed his mind, and sent the Major word he could not let him have the horse, unless he advanced considerably beyond the price agreed on. Major Luttrell, justly provoked at such a glaring breach of integrity, went

went with his Interpreter to wait on the Captain, telling the Interpreter beforehand, that though he could not speak the language of the country, yet he understood it so well as to know if he interpreted faithfully whatever he should tell him in English, and swearing, that if he did not, he would instantly run him through the body. When they came to the Captain, Major Luttrell asked him if he had not agreed in the forenoon to sell him such a horse at such a price? To which the other readily answered in the affirmative. He then asked him why he now receded from his bargain? The Captain said, he had receded from it because the horse was too cheap, and that he would not part with him unless he gave him eighty, instead of sixty moidors. Major Luttrell now ordered his Interpreter to tell the Captain, that by his infamous behaviour he had shewn himself to be a liar, a rascal and a scoundrel. The Captain at this shrugged up his shoulders, and replied to the Interpreter, he was sorry the Gentleman should take offence where none was intended; but said, he would part with his horse on no other terms. On finding this, the Major directed the Interpreter to acquaint the Captain, that in France or England, if it happened that one Officer bestowed

ed on another such epithets as he had just done on him, the Officer so grossly insulted must and certainly would directly call the other out and fight him.

The Captain, still preserving his *sang froid*, replied to the Interpreter very deliberately, that what the Gentleman said might be very true, for what he knew to the contrary, but that he as yet saw no good reason for preferring the practice of Foreigners in the present instance to that of his own country; that if he considered himself as affronted, he should never be such a fool or a madman, as by calling out his antagonist, to offer him an equal chance of taking his own life, while he knew of a safer and more certain method of obtaining such satisfaction as he should judge adequate to the affront received. In other words, 'by stabbing him unaware, or by hiring assassins to do so.'—Such is the point of honor in this high-spirited country.

But to return to the dramatical entertainment—The theatre was neatly fitted up, but entirely in the same taste with their Churches and Chapels; every thing was covered with crimson damask, the curtains and draperies were of the same stuff, and ornamented with a profusion of mock lace,
both

both of gold and silver. A considerable deal more of company attended in the evening than we had seen at dinner, and the front rows of the boxes were full of Ladies, who looked charmingly, and seemed to be there in the proper point of view. Their hair was done up in a wonderful variety of plaits and braids, with a great degree of taste, and without caps, but a quantity of beautiful flowers, both natural and artificial, supplied their place, and were richly intermixed with sprigs of diamonds, besides many breast-knots, solitaires and pendants of the same and other precious stones. Lord Freeman looked every where for his mistress, but she did not appear, though the family had been also invited; but on account of the disturbance Doctor Duncan raised that day, had sent their excuse. The performers were mostly of the profession brought from Lisbon for the occasion, and our entertainment consisted of three parts: The first was a Portuguese comedy, intermixed with some very extraordinary singing; the second was a most uncommon medley, but which I understood better, as I had formerly seen something like it in a puppet-show at Madrid; the last was called a Spanish farce, or Entremez, in which the
actors

actors attempted to speak Spanish, but did it wretchedly.

The performers had a way of drawling out their words, and speaking through the nose, so much more than I have perceived in ordinary conversation here, that I confess I lost much of the wit and salt of the first part, and even many of the sentences and the thread of the plot, if it had any. One thing I remarked was, that the laugh was chiefly kept up by the smut and repartees of an old woman, who was employed as a procuress, or go between, and every time she opened her mouth was followed with bursts of applause. One scene I particularly noticed was, that, where a young countryman, deeply smitten with the charms of one of the ladies of the piece, took to bed, the uncle in great consternation, sends for a Physician, who appears at the patient's bedside, feels his pulse, and makes him put out his tongue, on which he makes some witty remarks, though not very decent: he afterwards asks the patient where his chief complaint lay? The patient replies, that he has had violent pains in his stomach and bowels, but that since he had a hearty fit of b—lch—g a little before, he was much easier. This indecent

decent joke produced a hearty laugh. The Physician then asks the uncle what was the complexion of his nephew's urine? The old man begs his honor's pardon, and tells him as he was not book learned, he did not understand the question. The other then bawls into the uncle's ear, 'How is your nephew in regard to his p—f—ng?' A universal clap of applause, with the repetition of Bravo! Bravo! announced how much the company were satisfied with this delicate sally of wit. But my eyes were particularly fixed upon Donna Guimar, a prodigious fat Lady, who sat immediately before me; I think I have never seen so corpulent a woman, who appeared to be so young, and I really expected she would have gone into convulsions with laughing on the occasion; with one hand she clapt a large fan she held in it on her face, and with the other stuck in her side, she laid back in the easy chair on which she sat under me; as I stood behind her in the box, I saw her overgrown full neck, which was uncovered and prevented from starting over by a large rising circumference of stays which opposed themselves, heaving and undulating for a long time, like the waves of the sea, after being agitated by a storm, and which was to me a

proof she was perfectly well pleased with her entertainment.

The next piece was more comprehensive, and included more important scenes of action, beginning as it ought to do, with the creation of the world: Here we saw the (*Padre Eterno*) Eternal Father, with a long white beard, descend in a cloud, with a great number of lights and angels about him, and give orders for the creation of the world; over his head was drawn an equilateral triangle, as an emblem of the Trinity.

The next scene presented us with the serpent tempting Eve to eat the apple, and, his Infernal Majesty the Prince of Darkness, passed the most exaggerated encomiums on her beauty, in order to engage her to eat, which, as soon as she had done, and had made Adam do the same, there came a terrible storm of thunder and lightning, in the midst of which we had a dance of Infernal Spirits, with the Devil in the middle, all in high glee, and congratulating their Monarch on the success of his scheme against mankind; the Devil was dressed in black, with scarlet stockings, long ruffles, the frill of his shirt, a broad lace on his hat, and a large feather in it, all of the same colour. While they were exceedingly well diverted with

with their dance, a voice from behind the stage pronounces, in a loud and solemn tone, the word *JESUS*, on which the whole company of Devils funk immediately under the stage through trap-doors, from which flames and black smoke were seen rising, till they were shut.

As soon as the scene was shifted, the Eternal Father was seen again descending, but now in great wrath, and without any lights or angels attending him. He immediately called for Noah, who, it seems, was ready in waiting, telling him he was so provoked by the wickedness of mankind, that he was resolved to drown them all together, and said he was heartily vexed that he had taken the trouble of creating such a set of ungrateful scurvy fellows. But here the piety of Noah interceded in their favour, and, at last, it was agreed that Noah should build an Ark, according to the directions the Eternal Father gave him; he therefore orders Noah to go to the King's dockyard in Lisbon, and call John Gonsalves (which is the name of the present Master Builder here) whom he desired Noah to employ, under his own inspection in the work, assuring him he preferred John Gonsalves's method, to those of all their boasted French

and English Builders, (this compliment to the nation produced a great clap of approbation from the audience) after which the Eternal Father went up again to Heaven, and Noah to build his Ark.

Let no snarling French critic henceforth cavil with your Shakespeare, for the irregularity of his historical plays, which only included the small period of twenty or thirty years, which vanish into a point when compared to the distance of time between the Creation and the Flood, or between this last and the following scene of our piece, which consisted of a conversation between St. Christopher, (a Giant) our Saviour, who was represented as a very pretty boy of about ten or twelve years old, but very poorly dressed, and the Devil, whom I readily knew again, having the same dress he appeared in before. The Devil complains grievously to the Saint of the irreparable mischief the coming of Christ had done to himself and his kingdom, said, that he could now scarcely put down his foot on any corner of the Earth without meeting with Christians and Saints. He asked the Saint what sort of conscience his master had, that he was for taking all to himself, and would leave him nothing, though

though he must be sensible, it was much more the fear of him than any love for his antagonist, that made so many Christians, and desired the Saint might introduce him to Christ, so that they might settle their affairs in an amicable manner? Saint Christopher replied, he did not really know where to find Jesus Christ at present, but said, he believed he was with his father and mother in the city of Heliopolis, in Egypt. The Devil said he had not time to go so far that night, but, that he thought the little boy the Saint had there with him, very much resembled Jesus Christ, to the best of his remembrance, when he saw him once at a distance about seven hundred years before, going into the Temple at Jerusalem. The Saint assured him he was not Christ, and the little boy himself declared, that so far from it, he was only the son of a poor Carpenter of Nazareth, who, with the sweat of his forehead, had much trouble to earn wherewith to buy a couple of pilchards and a bit of brown bread for himself and his mother to eat.

After this, St. Christopher and the Devil had a long conversation upon the nature of the Trinity; and this last concluded, it was upon the whole such an intricate contradictory

tradictory piece of business, that he confessed he could not comprehend it. Upon this the Saint very familiarly tells the Devil he must be a great blockhead, (*hum pedaço d' Asno*) a piece of an ass literally, for that nothing was more self-evident and intelligible, adding, that he would make it so even to him in an instant. On this he took up with his left hand the skirt of his own gown or habit, and making a fold of a part of it with his right, said, here is one; then making another fold, said, here are two; and making a third, asked him, if that was not three? and the other answering in the affirmative, the Saint dropped the three folds, and stretched out all that part of his garment in one piece between his hands, without any folds; and the Devil, after such a palpable demonstration, now acknowledged that he clearly understood the nature of the Trinity.

This matter being discussed, the little boy begged St. Christopher to carry him on his shoulder over a deep and rapid river running close by them, to which the Saint consented, though the Devil cautioned him how he meddled with that little boy, of whom he still had his doubts, as to who he really was. However, the Saint took him
up,

up, but before he got to the middle of the river, he was ready to sink under the enormous load, and began to call out, at which the Devil laughed heartily, and asked him why he would not follow his advice? The boy said to the Saint while on his shoulder in the river, ' If Atlas formerly found the weight of the Poles of this world, a load he could hardly bear, no wonder Christopher, that though a Giant, you should find me much heavier, who am the Creator not only of this world, but of the Sun, the Moon and all the planetary system.' On the boy's saying this, the Saint found himself instantaneously relieved, and on setting him down on the other side, he fell on his knees to worship him, and then making the sign of the cross over the water upon the Devil, the Prince of Darkness immediately vanished into flame and smoke, leaving a strong sulphureous smell behind him.

This piece concluded with a scene, which is a constant favourite with the people of this country: It was a conversation of some gallants with their Nuns at the parlour grate of a Convent. After many bombast asseverations of love and attachment, interspersed with *double entendre* on both sides, the Ladies desire the Gentlemen to entertain them

them with a dance, which they did, by dancing the fofa, two and two to the Guitar, and afterwards another dance still more indecent and obscene, only practised by the black men and women of Lisbon, and this last part of the entertainment especially went off with great applause.

The scene of the after-piece lay in a Spanish Cobler's shop, the Cobler at work with his wife by him, (who was rather handsome) and two of their gossips, the one a Bernardine, and the other a Franciscan Fryar, who were from time to time casting a leering eye at the wife, but were at the same time engaged in a deep dispute, in which the Cobler took a serious part: One of the learned Fryars insisted there could exist matter without form, the other was as strenuous in supporting the contrary opinion, saying, that matter and form were inseparable, to which the Cobler himself also adhered, while his wife seemed prudently to embrace the opinions of both her gossips. Mean time a young Buck (*Maxo*) enters the shop, and desires the Cobler to mend the strap of his shoe-buckle which he had torn in walking. The Cobler calls to his wife Maria, to know what money was in the house? Maria replied that she had
a (Pezo

a (Pezo duro) piece of eight, and seven royals. The Cobler then turns to the Buck, and asks him if he was not ashamed to desire him to work for him, when he heard he had so much money in the house, and told him he might get his strap mended where he pleased, for that he would work for no man while he was so rich? The dispute concerning matter and form still went on and became warm, (by the way you must know the words *materia* and *forma* in Spanish, signify matter and form, and that the word *forma* also signifies a shoemaker's last) the party, who insisted matter could exist without form, was very obstinate, without producing one good reason for it. The Cobler was particularly provoked on seeing this, and said, he would soon convince him; so, rising from his tripod in a rage, and taking up his last or form, he threw it with such force at his antagonist, as made a large cut on his forehead. 'Now, (said the Cobler, exulting) after what my form has done, I'll answer for it, there will be produced matter in abundance.' This turn of wit raised great applause in the House, after which the Cobler, the two Fryars, the Maxo and Maria, being, it seems, each provided with a leather strap or thong, began beating each

other about the stage, to the entertainment of the company, and which is the manner in general in which the Spanish after-pieces end.

But, however absurd, ridiculous and monstrous these farces may be, it must be remembered they are but representations calculated to amuse the vulgar, always best pleased with whatever appears most crude, incredible and gigantic; besides, even in the best theatrical representations, there are too often many circumstances which remind the spectator they are but pictures of life, the absurdities whereof can never strike half so much surprise, nor affect any of the other passions near so strongly, as when we see the same things happen in real life. A short account of what I have very lately seen pass here, under my own eye, will, I doubt not, support the propriety of this observation.

Some thieves having lately broken into a country Church about four leagues from this, and rummaging about in the dark for plate and other plunder among the Altars, they happened to overturn or break open a Pix, which contained several consecrated wafers, which were found next morning strewn about on the ground near the Altar,
and

and some of them were missing, which was reckoned still a greater misfortune. When these circumstances were reported to the Queen, they threw her into the deepest affliction; she shut herself up and was invisible for three days, after which, she said that all the misfortunes of her late father's reign and the judgments with which God had visited him, such as earthquakes, the expulsion of the Jesuits, and the war which followed, were altogether nothing, when compared to the grievous insult which had been offered to the body of our blessed Saviour himself, and which it became her duty to apologize for, after the most signal manner possible; and, after holding a consultation with the gravest and most orthodox Divines, the whole Court were ordered into deep mourning for nine days, at the end of which there was a general procession from one great Church to another in the city at a considerable distance, in which the Queen herself and the Court walked in ceremony, and which they called the procession of the *Disaggravation*, and by performing of which they seriously think they have appeased the justly provoked wrath of the Deity, who had received such a gross affront by a few wafers being thrown about and lost, as if there were any connection

between the Almighty and Omnipotent Creator of the Universe, and a wafer.

What a crowd of reflections does not such flagrant and inveterate folly present to the consideration of every sensible and serious person? Here we plainly see into what an indefinite train of gross, ludicrous and impious situations, only this belief of the real presence must continually bring them: for ever led astray by the insolent and blasphemous opinion, that the Deity resembles a cruel capricious tyrant, they think to appease every supposed insult offered him, as frightened cringing slaves would, the misplaced wrath of such a Despot, absurdly supposing him unable to vindicate his own cause, or thinking perhaps by slavish and overweening humiliations, to anticipate the effects of that vengeance he was just about to wreck upon them. What wretched notions of the Deity! Adieu.

LET-

L E T T E R XLII.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

OUR business goes on apace; Colonel Priolet, and especially Lord Freeman are now almost the whole day at the Marquis of Pancorvo's house, settling and adjusting all their affairs, and a large house is engaged at Cintra for the reception of the new married pairs, immediately after the ceremony is performed here; for by a very prudent law no persons of rank are permitted to celebrate the occasion of their marriages in the city, but at some leagues distance from it; and this law was enacted to prevent the Nobility from ruining themselves by the prodigious expence they were formerly at, in endeavouring to outdo each other on such occasions, for no people on earth are so fond of exterior show and parade, insomuch that they very often got into such debt by their nuptials, as they were not able to extricate themselves

themselves from during the rest of their lives.

The marriage contracts are drawn out and signed; and Lord Freeman has settled five hundred pounds a year on the Marquis and his Lady, or the longest liver, and has advanced him the first year's income in hand: he has either himself, or by Donna Lucretia made him every other proffer and demonstration of friendship, attention and respect, so that the old fat Marquis is quite confounded and overcome with such marks of disinterested generosity. Lord Freeman insists on every thing being done in the most private manner possible, for no man hates bustle and ceremony more than he does; and as for Donna Lucretia, she seems to have no eyes nor ears, nor any thing else, but for him: there is such expression in every feature when she looks at him, her eyes shine with such uncommon lustre, and no woman could ever boast of a finer pair; her teeth are set in the most regular and graceful order, and are of a pearly dazzling brightness, and her head, nobly elevated upon a neck of ivory, is adorned with a length of shining auburn hair; and indeed, to do the women of this country justice, there are three very essential

tial ingredients of a fine woman, which they almost all possess in a degree I have seen no where else, these are—fine eyes, fine hair, and fine teeth. But Donna Lucretia is undoubtedly a paragon in mind as well as person: what a fund of good sense, accompanied with that enchanting air of modesty, meekness, frankness and good breeding mingled together, exactly as they ought; what richness and life in the arrangement of her features, and in the speaking glow of her fine complexion; she possesses the personal accomplishments of the finest Portuguese Lady, which is certainly saying every thing, with all their life and vivacity, and this improved by a finished education in England; in her the characters of the completest Ladies of the two nations are sweetly blended and met. In short, she is, in my opinion, the sum of all that can serve for the grace, honor and ornament of her sex, and in her are assembled all those various perfections which we so much admire in other fine women, even separately and apart. You will be apt to believe I am in love with this Angel, which I declare to you I am not, though I like her; I respect and admire her infinitely, and should be unhappy if I saw her go into the possession perhaps of any man else, but
my

my friend Lord Freeman. If I were in love with her, I should find myself tormented with the spirit of uneasy and restless jealousy, and repining at the good fortune of my friend, nothing of which I experience; on the contrary, I shall rejoice at seeing him possessed of the brightest jewel in the shape of woman ever man was blessed with.

Several Portuguese Wits are already preparing Epithalamiums for the occasion; for here they are the most unmerciful Poetasters on earth; they must make verses on every occasion, the most trifling as well as the most important, and all in the same bad stile, I mean the most bombastic extravagant and gigantic. But on occasion of a marriage, or the anniversary of a marriage, or a birthday, the complimentary verses are held indispensable; above all, the Glorifiers are what I reckon the most ludicrous and extraordinary; but they are held in the greatest esteem, and some of them are extremely ready, and have, what I may call, a great knack at it. I understand they have something of the same kind in Italy, under the name of *Improvvisatori*.

Here it is after the following manner:
When the company, which are generally
numerous

numerous on such occasions, are assembled, the Wit who intends to exhibit, if in conversation with any Lady, especially with one he affects to admire, lays hold of any short sentence she happens to say in discourse, and repeating it, he calls out *La vay*, which is to advertise the company he is going to gloze that sentence, which I may call his text, and which they distinguish by the name of *Môte*; that is, he must make four, eight, or more verses *extempore*, having reference to that sentence, and containing most frequently extravagant compliments to the Lady, or sometimes to the Bride or the company present. The verses must be so disposed as to make good sense, not only with the *môte* or sentence fixed on, but if well executed, the whole turn of the wit and emphasis of the verses must fall upon that sentence, which must infallibly be and make the last line of the verses, and all this suddenly and off hand. They often ask the Ladies to give them a *môte* or text, which they must gloze immediately; and when this is well performed, or generally indeed whether it is or not, the whole company clap hands and re-echo from all parts, Bravo! Viva, Viva! Bello! Sublime! Excellente! and this is their favourite entertainment on such occasions;

for the man who is dexterous at glozing in this manner, is esteemed a first rate genius, and considered as having reached the summit of Parnassus; even their great Cambens did not disdain amusing himself, and exhibiting in this way, and among others he made a gloze to every letter of the Alphabet. But when a Lady performs in that way, as some of them do very prettily, (and I think such sallies of wit more becoming the vivacity of the sex) she is praised, commended, put up among the stars, and reckoned the Nonpareil of learning, wisdom and perfection.

We have had what is called here a (Função) Function, a feast, an entertainment, a party of pleasure, in the fullest sense of the word. Such quantities of ancient plate, chairs, tables, utensils, and such numbers of servants borrowed and collected from all his friends and acquaintance, at such an exorbitant expence, for one moment, while starvation and penury mark all the rest; such an alliance of splendor and wretchedness as the Marquis of Pancorvo has exhibited, of poverty and vanity, of the greatest exterior display of pomp and grandeur, with the most redundant want of means to support them, as are only to be exemplified

emplified in the œconomy of a Portuguese Nobleman's family. Not, indeed, that I ought to suppose every family of rank in this country is so ill directed, as that of our friend the Marquis, or that there is such an extremity of meanness and wretchedness in their interior circumstances, at the same time I am certainly warranted to say, that, by softening the shades of the sketch I shall give you of that family, which I have now examined nearly, you will be able to form no inadequate idea of most of the others, as to their domestic government.

I am much inclined to believe, that mutual forbearance is the leading principle, upon which the interior police of most families in Portugal is regulated, and that there exists a sort of tacit agreement among the different members who compose them, to indulge each other's inclinations, as well as to bear with each other's foibles and imperfections, with Christian resignation. Subordination does not exist in those societies, for if servants have only sense enough to obey their masters in some trifles, and humour their particular fancies, they are certain of governing and disposing every thing else as they like best, the masters taking little or no concern in it. This is partly

owing to their natural sloth and indolence, and also to their not knowing, nor ever having seen any example of œconomy before them; and hence more money is squandered, and more families reduced to a state of poverty in this, than perhaps in any other country, owing purely to bad servants.

I have known men of high spirit and great notions of punctilio and honor, and who would be, perhaps, the last to give way in any sort of competition with other men their equals or superiors, who at the same time took pleasure in being at home, and, in their domestic regulations, under the controul of a cajoling or a domineering mistress. To such men will I in the present instance do the Portuguese Nobility the honor of comparing them, though I am sensible they are far enough from deserving such a favor; for, as well as I can learn, or have been able to observe of their notions of punctilio or spirit, they seldom appear any otherwise than by the operations of a slanderous backbiting tongue, or a sharp-pointed knife. But the state of subjection in which many of them live to their upper servants, and the too great familiarity they permit or invite all of them
to

to use, must at first sight be obvious, and these must be persons possessed of more virtue than is commonly to be found in that station, if they can resist such alluring temptations to be insolent and rapacious with impunity.

I have remarked to you in a former letter, the Marquis of Pancorvo was by Royal authority in a very circumscribed situation in regard to his finances, though not in a much worse condition than many others of the Nobility, whose estates are all grievously encumbered by their own imprudence or neglect; and as it is found next to impossible to oblige them to pay what they already owe, so this circumstance depriving them of almost any credit, they find it exceedingly difficult to obtain money from those few who are able to advance it.

The Marquis would therefore have found it very hard to indulge his ruling passion for ostentation and show, without the money Lord Freeman advanced him, a good part of which must have gone on this occasion. We remarked the Marquis was absent from the family for some days, as well as the two Gentlemen in uniform, and the two buffoons, without whose company he never goes any where; but the business he
went

went upon was kept a secret. The family were governed by the Marchioness's Squire, who did not seem to relish our running familiarly over every part of the great empty palace, as we did; Donna Lucretia even introduced us into the women's apartments. Out of twenty large chambers upon the same floor, which the house (built in the form of a cloister) consists of, besides kitchens, stables and other offices, not above four or five of them are furnished, all the others are in bare white walls, brick or deal floors, and these last eat into holes by the rats. Donna Lucretia's apartment is neatly furnished in every thing by her own direction, and at her own expence. That of her father and mother has a large bed in the middle, with crimson damask curtains, bordered with broad gold lace, a magnificent Chinese coverlid, richly embroidered both in gold and silver, with Chinese figures, some of them not the most decent, was spread over the bed; the sheets were edged with fine broad thread lace, and the bed pillows were ornamented with the same; but what was my surprise, when, looking under the sheets, I found neither feather bed nor mattress, but a straw bed sewed up in coarse convass. The dressing table was loaded with large massive
boxes

boxes of silver, carved in different shapes, but so exceedingly dirty, that they certainly have not been cleaned these twenty years. There are two rooms destined for the maid servants, in one of these six of the principal attendants sleep, in the other about eight or ten, two together, blacks, whites and mulattoes; their beds consist of a woollen mattress and a coverlid, some have sheets, others not; these beds are spread out on the floor when they go to sleep, upon a mat made of the leaf of the dwarf palm-tree, in which they are rolled up in the daytime, and stowed away in a corner, or thrown into large chests they have for the purpose. In the principal apartment of the women, I saw about a dozen low chairs ranged along one side of the room, the seats of which were not above seven or eight inches high; but even these they very seldom make use of, preferring to sit squat upon their hams, with round mats under them, adhering strictly in this respect to the old Moorish custom still, and in the same manner they sit at Church, when they attend the sermons or other ceremonies, except the celebration of Mass, when they are always on their knees.

I expected

I expected to have seen more neatness and propriety in the apartment of the two Gentlemen in uniform, who, I now find, have been born and bred in the family. When young the Marquis had procured them both Ensigncies in the Army, and one had been advanced to the rank of Lieutenant, continuing still to serve in the family as usual; but the late Count la Lippe, when he took the command of the Army here, had, it seems the impertinence to insist that the two Gentlemen should attend their duty in their Regiments, or quit the service, and be put upon the reform; they very prudently chose the last alternative, still wear the uniform, and receive their half-pay, which is about sixteen shillings per month each. Their chamber was large, as usual, with white walls, along which their beds were ranged, as well as those of the two buffoons; they consisted of straw mattresses, with holes in many parts, through which the straw was visible, a pillow of the same materials, and a thread-bare blanket for a coverlid, without any sheets. These mattresses were laid upon boards of the same length and breadth, raised six inches from the brick floor. Another circumstance I here remarked, which would certainly have turned my stomach,

stomach, had I not been already so well inured to it in almost every Inn of this country and Spain, this was, that the white wall at the back of these Gentlemen's beds, and indeed every where near them, as far as it would seem they could reach, was plentifully bedaubed with t-b—o sp-t—gs, which, it appeared they had been as careful to place in that conspicuous point of view, as I should to conceal such an abominable nuisance. The beds of the two buffoons were next the door, which opens into the Marquis's bed-chamber, as he often calls them in the night-time, when he is restless to amuse and lull him to sleep by their discourse, their songs or other mimicry. The laqueys and the other men servants sleep below, or in the stables, and are known by the denomination of, the servants below stairs.

The expences of the interior œconomy of a Portuguese Nobleman's family are certainly as moderate, as they are excessive in every thing which regards exterior parade and ostentation, numbers of livery servants, carriages, mules, led horses, and in short every thing that can dazzle and impose on the spectator, and give him an exaggerated notion of the power, wealth and authority of

the master. The numerous servants are supported by rations of boiled meat and rice, cut and divided into shares on meat days, and of dry cod-fish and rice on fish days and others of abstinence, which return frequently, exclusive of the forty-six days of Lent. Wine is seldom wanted and when called for, it is brought in small quantities, and infamous in quality, from the nearest tavern; but they drink abundance of fine cold water, and at night the smallest bit of cold meat or a pilchard, with plenty of excellent lettuce or other sallad, tempered with oil and vinegar, which make the universal sauce for almost every thing, and good bread, (of which they are great devourers, as well as the French and Spaniards) serve for supper. In the morning, the chief persons of the family generally make their breakfast of chocolate, and that after hearing Mass in the family Chapel, which I forgot to tell you is magnificent, all shining with gold, and figures of winged Angels, in carving as well as painting. The great regale and luxury at all hours is the variety of sweetmeats they keep in store for all occasions, and with the chocolate are, I believe, the only articles they do not send out for to the Grocer's or the market, as wanted; these sweetmeats serve them as
provoca-

provocatives to drink deep draughts of water, which blows them up surprisngly, in-
 fomuch that I have heard it often remark-
 ed at Madrid, long before I came to this
 place, that there were in proportion, many
 more fat people in Lisbon, than to be found
 any where else, and I never, indeed, saw
 so many fat purfy mis-shapen little person-
 ages as among the Nobility here; but it
 is a pale unwholesome sort of Chuch-yard
 fat, without animation or elasticity, in-
 clining them to a kind of lethargic torpor,
 so that if you press any part of their leg or
 arm with a finger, the dint shall remain
 there for a considerable time, before the
 flesh resumes its equality; this is almost
 entirely owing to their indolence, and not
 taking bodily exercise of any kind, which it
 would be too much trouble for them to go
 through. I forgot to tell you, they prefer
 their own oil, which is strong and rancid, to
 the fine Florence, Lucca or French oils,
 which they dislike, because they say, they
 have no taste.

To pass now from the descriptive, I
 must acquaint you that the same evening
 the Marquis de Pancorvo returned from his
 excursion, the purport of which was still a
 secret to us, we received each a flaming

card of invitation to dine with him next day at his country-house on the other side of the Tagus, near a village called Moita; we were requested to be at the water side at eleven next forenoon, where there would be a barge in waiting to receive us, and though we were punctual, we found every thing there ready and the family embarked, as well as a dozen other barges full of Nobility, with streamers and colours flying, scarlet or crimson awnings, surrounded with gold fringes and silk curtains, almost down to the water's edge. The rowers and patron of each barge were dressed in particular uniforms. Our barge was rowed by twenty oars, and three men to each, rising up and sitting down at every stroke; the whole set off in cadence at a signal given, each having a band of music on board. This also was quite a new scene to us, and put me in mind of the old Queen of Egypt going to meet Mark Anthony. We had full three leagues to row, and our rowers, who were stout men from the province of Algarve, exerted all their strength, excepting indeed that the Marquis's two buffoons kept them and the whole company in a continued fit of laughter, with the ribaldry and jocular scurrility they poured out upon them, and were often very well answered by

by the others, nor did they seem to regard the sunbeams, now darting with meridian force upon them, but the tide being far from favourable, it was two o'clock before we arrived at the scene of action. A very large Quinta * stood upon the beach, surrounded with dwarf firs and sand-hills. Dinner was already served in the second Saloon, into which we were ushered. The table consisted of fifty covers, with a couple of servants behind each chair. The whole company, excepting Miss Welding, Lord Freeman, Priolet and myself, were Portuguese Nobility, but much fewer Ladies than Gentlemen. The entertainment consisted of three regular services, and the whole in heavy old massive plate. Many of the servants were in uniform, many others perfectly well dressed, with fine lace ruffles, and the Collar and Cross of the Order of Christ hanging on their breast. During dinner we had very fine pieces of David Perez's music well executed, and some charming *arias* by the best voices from the Patriarchal Church. At the Desert, to which we removed into the adjoining Saloon, the same music was continued. One half of the servants attended us to the De-

* A Gentleman's Country-house or Villa.

fert,

fert, while the other and graver part sat down to dinner at the table we left.

The windows of the apartment where the Desert was served, were numerous, spacious and open to the bottom, so that the floor was on a level with the ground without, on which there now appeared a company of Masks, dressed as shepherds and shepherdesses, with flowers, garlands and all the other insignia, and dancing in a variety of figures to the music which accompanied them. When they ceased, two men and as many women danced the Spanish Fandango with taste and extremely well to the guitar, with Castagnettes, in the midst of which, and to the time of the music, one of the men contrived to give a wheel into the Saloon, and placed a Crown of Myrtle, beautifully interwoven with flowers, and two billing doves suspended over it, upon Donna Lucretia's head, while one of the women did the same to Lord Freeman; this feat, which was in reality very nimbly performed, drew a hundred Viva's from the company; the Poets became more and more vociferous with their Môtés and their Glozas, and the whole were dissolved in joy and satisfaction. At last, about sunset coffee appeared, neither

ther did the time seem long to us, though Lord Freeman naturally dislikes such noisy promiscuous assemblies. There were no apartments wherein to sleep the festa; many indeed of the fat Nobility had taken it comfortably on their chairs in the midst of all the music and noise, but the coffee roused them all, and brought them to themselves. In about an hour after the entire company were again embarked in their barges for Lisbon.

I know nothing more delightful than to be upon smooth water by moonlight, and the beautiful Cynthia rose upon us in full and unclouded splendor. The company agreed the barges should separate to the right and left at greater distances from each other as we crossed the spacious Basin to Lisbon, the better to enjoy the effects of the music. Our barge had taken the right of all; and the tide coming full in as we approached the city, where the current is extremely rapid, we were carried a considerable way above it, the stout Algarve rowers pulling strong against the tide to very little purpose. ‘I wish Saint Anthony would send us a breeze from those hills to the North, as he often does,’ (said one of the rowers next to where I sat in the barge, who had been the most successful

successful in returning the gibes and scurrility of the two buffoons). 'Would to God, our Lady made him do so, (replied several of the others) let us pray a *responsio* * to him;' which when they had done, blow! blow! Saint Anthony, (said they almost all with one voice).

Hand my Gossip aft here from the prow, and I will talk with him, (said the facetious fellow near me, whose name I found was Ivo, and that he was the established wit and oracle of the whole crew). Upon this I saw them hand him a board about two feet long and five or six inches broad, at the lower end was fixed a small box for receiving alms, with a slit cut in it for dropping in the money, and above it was painted the figure of the Saint, with the Child Jesus in his arms. Ivo set the Saint down before him, the rowers tugged away and we offered them wine which they refused, but drank plenty of water which they had brought with them in kegs. Ivo addressing himself to St. Anthony, said thus, 'You know Gossip, (for it seems he is Godfather to one

* A sort of prayer in bad Latin the Priests teach the people to mumble over to St. Anthony, as the particular Patron of Lisbon, to recover any thing they have lost, to obtain a happy journey, a fair wind, &c. &c.

of Ivo's children) I am already acquainted with your tricks, and that I have had too much reason on some occasions, to call you mulish and obstinate; but I desire and expect you will not expose us now, especially before these Englishmen, by your wrongheadedness; for only consider what the watermen of London will think of you, when these Gentlemen shall tell them, that when we asked you only for a small puff of wind to carry us to your own city, you had the shabbiness and illnature to refuse it us?" After more ribaldry with the buffoons, at which the old Marquis laughed heartily, Ivo took up the board and shaking it, found the alms-box was empty. Oh! now I understand him, (exclaimed Ivo) now I know the reason we cannot get a wind, my Gossip will do nothing, not even for our Lady herself without an alms! Do, pass him about among the noble company of Fidalgos, and let every one give him an alms; as soon as my Gossip hears the money tinkling in his box, I know we shall have a wind directly. After the alms were collected, Ivo set the Saint again down before him. By and by, as I was become familiar with Ivo, I asked him where was the wind he had been so long promising us? He assured me it would come, for that, though his Gossip was some-

times flow, yet he never failed him. Soon after this, some others of the rowers said St. Anthony was a blockhead and a coxcomb, and did not care a straw for what Ivo said to him. 'Do you hear, Gossip, (said Ivo) what my comrades are saying of you? though they speak truth, and you richly deserve it all. As it still continued calm, Ivo began to call St. Anthony all the bad names he could think of, told him if a ducking was all he wanted to make him do his duty, he should soon have his bellyful of salt water; he called him a fool, a slug-a-bed, a drunkard, a thief, a cuckold, a (cabraõ) pimp of his own wife, and told him he would break his horns for him, if he did not look better to his business.

Our men pulled away for near an hour longer without any sign of wind; at last Ivo, making the two men with him lay upon their oar, started up in a violent passion, drew his sharp-pointed knife, and presenting it to the face of the painting of St. Anthony, said to him these words, 'Ah filho de puta! se não fosse pelo respeito daquelle filho bastardo que tems nos braços, enxia-te essa caranca de facadas.' In literal English it is thus, 'You son of a w——, if it were not for the respect I have for that
bastard

'bastard son you have in your arms, I would fill that ugly face of your's with stabs of my knife.'

Soon after this we came nearly opposite to a sort of valley at the upper end of the city, from whence we had a breeze. 'Ah! you will consent then after all, you old cuckold, (said Ivo still in great wrath with his Gossip) after we have almost broken the bones of our arms with rowing, you come with your snivelling wind, when we do not want your assistance; but remember friend, I tell you before all this noble company, if you are not more tractable and ready in future, I will strike my name out of your brotherhood and society, I will never give you a farthing, nor collect any more alms, nor make more feasts for you, or take any more notice of you, than I would of the meanest Saint in the Calendar.'

At last we reached the quays of Santarem in Lisbon, where all the rest of the company had arrived before us; and we got home about eleven o'clock, strangely amused with the odd variety of this day's entertainment, which must have cost the Marquis of Pancorvo a good part of the fool. Lord Freeman advanced him. Adieu.

L E T T E R XLIII.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

THE moment after closing my last to you I received two of your letters of very different dates, and I am at a loss to guess where the first could have lain so long, as the packets come here pretty regularly from Falmouth, notwithstanding the war. It is impossible for me to answer the tenth part of your questions at present, as this is the last letter but one I shall write you from hence.

I thought I had given you a good share of information concerning this country, but from the contents of your last they seem rather to have awaked, than satisfied your curiosity. There is no doubt but I could furnish you as you require, with a pretty accurate history of the Inquisition in this kingdom, as well as an abridged view of its

its history since it became an independent state, together with an account of the possessions the Portuguese still hold in the East Indies, in Africa and South America, and of the progress of learning here, which may be very soon discussed ; that of their miracles, Saints and martyrs ; of the Jews and Moors in this country, with their expulsions from it : I could give you the account you so much wish for of the Mystical City of God, and some other mystical and theological books, which I have no doubt would surprise you ; all which, as well as several other particulars you mention, I think I could abbreviate, so as to render them much more entertaining, without losing one article worth preserving, and so reduce to a very limited and convenient compass what is there drawn out through numberless volumes of the most extravagant fustian and bombast, filled with miracles, hyperbole and emptiness ! But this is not the time for indulging your curiosity, so far as I hope I shall be able to do when fixed in the Sabine farm in the province of Connaught, for you may be well assured, I come not unprovided with materials ; besides many useful notes and memorandums I have taken on all occasions, I bring with me a good store of Portuguese and Spanish books, particularly

particularly historical, and what is best of all, my worthy friend Priolet, whom I shall be always able to consult, is a living Dictionary in whatever relates to the most thorough acquaintance with this country.

Two days ago I accompanied Lord Freeman and the beautiful blooming Donna Lucretia to the altar, and saw them receive the nuptial benediction; and on the same day did I attend Mr. Priolet with the respectable and excellent Miss Welding to the British Envoy's Chapel, where Doctor Allen married them with much the same ceremony; and I am certain there never offered, nor most probably will there ever offer again an opportunity like the present, for pronouncing these two marriages the triumph of love, reason and philosophy, all mixed and blended in such a delightful contest for superiority, that it were impossible to decide to which side the scale inclines. Never, I believe, did four persons meet more amply provided with sensations capable of relishing, in a more extensive degree, the enjoyment of all that is good, fair and praiseworthy under the Sun. Love alone is but a cloying nauseous banquet—but when thus sweetly attempered with all the blandishments of friendship,
real

real and extensive knowledge, sound good sense, sprightly ideas, pure good health, and the heart-felt approbation of an unfulfilled conscience, oh ! what a feast for the lover, the friend, and the lively agreeable companion, comprehending surely every thing really valuable, of sublunary enjoyment and happiness, and extending the enraptured prospect still farther to future realms of ineffable delight !

But while my amiable friends are enjoying themselves at Cintra, whither they immediately went after the ceremony, I take this opportunity of remitting you some general observations on the late situation of this country, answering your question concerning the predicament it stands in with regard to Spain, and subjoining other remarks, which might have escaped me when occupied in the historical descriptions of former letters. This goes by the packet which sails to-morrow, and we embark in that which leaves this in the course of next week ; but you will receive this long enough before we reach London, as we shall be in no hurry on the road from Falmouth to the capital, and shall most likely take Bath and Bristol in our way, you will therefore have time to meditate on and digest

gest what I shall offer for your consideration below.

This little country presents a striking instance of how far the human mind and character may be depraved and corrupted, by the baneful influence of a domineering and fictitious mode of worship, which has entirely banished and suppressed every sentiment of virtue, or almost any attempt towards the goodness of a moral action, which (to use such an expression) can with difficulty be committed here without being censured by the active and dangerous spies and ministers of a jealous and worthless religion. Here the practice and exercise of those sentiments of piety, gratitude, generosity, benevolence, and universal charity, which I am persuaded would often arise naturally in the breasts of most men, if only left to themselves, are diverted, and another and most pernicious direction is given to their effects. The ardour of the pious and devout is directed to adore at the shrine of the Saint in the neighbourhood, most famous for having performed some wretched miracle, too ridiculous to detain the attention even of an old woman or an infant, and it is here also where Generosity and Gratitude are taught to leave their
presents

presents and make their offerings. The first and great object of charity all over this country and Spain, is the relieving of the souls in Purgatory, by lavishing money on Churches and Convents, for Masses to be said on that account; and such an influence has the belief of that ideal place of torment, that it will squeeze hard cash from between the fingers of many a miser, when no other consideration could have produced that effect; nay, so depraved are the understandings of the best intentioned people, by the perverse lessons of their spiritual directors, that their charitable donations to persons in distress, are unaccompanied with those liberal and disinterested motives of relieving the necessitous and comforting the afflicted, which are, in my opinion, the best stimulatives to such actions, and are divested of their principal merit, by being bestowed from selfish and personal considerations; for as the intercessions of others, especially of persons who have once address enough to be looked on by the multitude as of extraordinary sanctity, are reckoned of the greatest avail, so wherever such a person or persons appear, they are frequented by all the people round, whose consciences accuse them of any deadly vices or irregularities, who load such devotees with

alms and charitable gifts, charging them at the same time to intercede earnestly in their favor with the Virgin, or with their particular Saint or Angel, and the prayers of such persons are esteemed by all as of the most salutary effect: Even in many forms of private prayers which the grave directing Fryars prescribe for the use of their penitents, these are taught to represent to their Saint, or to the Divinity, (if they address him, which seldom happens) their own good works, the charities they have done, or the sickness, disorders and afflictions they have suffered, and to request that, in consideration of these, so much may be discounted from the degree of punishment their sins may be found to deserve, establishing, by this means, a sort of account current of debtor and creditor, between themselves and the Almighty, or his Agents. And so universal is this notion among the people that when they give charity to a comon beggar in the streets, they charge that beggar to pray for them, that such charity may be admitted in discount of their transgressions, and which you may believe the beggar faithfully engages to do.

Thus,

Thus, by the illiberal and noxious principles of the religion established in this peninsula, the divine spirit of godlike charity itself is stripped of its brightest ornament, I mean, the solacing and delightful consideration of relieving the distressed part of our fellow-creatures, and of embracing all our brethren of mankind in the arms of friendship and affection, without the smallest regard to the mean and degrading notions of self-interested motives or intentions.

With regard to the present political situation of this country, I certainly should not have been in any condition to satisfy your curiosity upon such an essential article, had I not been greatly assisted by the conversation of some well informed persons of this place, whose company I have made it my business to frequent, and by the important and satisfactory information I have received from Colonel Priolet, who is unquestionably well acquainted with the strength, the weakness and resources of this Government. But I must previously observe to you, it will be impossible to talk to you of the civil or political state of this people, without being unfortunately obliged to bring their religion almost

every moment also in question, the two being so inseparably interwoven in the whole fabric and contexture of the Government, or to speak still more truly, the Civil Power acting only in subordination and according to the impulses it receives from the Religious.

The nature of this Government may be fairly pronounced the most despotic of any kingdom in Europe, and I believe I have hinted to you in former epistles, that the established law is generally a dead letter, excepting where its decrees are carried into execution by the supplementary mandates of the Sovereign, which are generally employed in defeating the purposes of safety and protection, which law is calculated to extend equally over all the subjects.

Considering the incredible degree of ignorance in which the Sovereign Princes of Portugal have been educated, at least ever since the rash and unfortunate King Sebastian, considering the singular degree of imbecility, want of talents, and almost of common sense, which have so remarkably distinguished the reigning family of Bragança, from the first King Don John the Fourth, (who would not have dared to accept the Crown his people held out to him,

him, had not his wife, a high-spirited Spaniard, urged him on to that act of rebellion against her native country) to the present moment, in which any hopes of bettering their situation, by a favourable prospect of the future, are sadly precluded, by the foolish and wittol dispositions of the Heir Apparent, the present Prince of the Brazils, not to say a word of the incapacity of the two Royal Personages who actually fill the throne, unless we take a nearer view of the nature of this Government, it will to many appear like a paradox, how three millions of people submit to be so despotically ruled by a couple of idiots.

I will take it upon me roundly to affirm, that no cause purely of this world, could have ever been able to produce such a monstrous effect, and that it became necessary to have recourse to the terrors of the next, in order to rivet the chains of despotism and absolute power.

In such a situation of Prince and People, how happy were it for this nation, were there to be found in it a certain rank of citizens, privileged by their profession, and respectable to the Despot himself, who should intercede in behalf of their oppressed fellow

fellow-subjects, who should, on the part of Heaven, reprimand his insolence, and stipulate with him for the injured rights of mankind? Such a noble and godlike employment appears to belong particularly to that profession of men, who here so insolently give themselves out as the depositaries of the divine Oracles, and the dispensers of the precepts of a just and terrible God. How would such men be adored by their countrymen, so much prejudiced in their favor, even as things now stand, were they but to serve them as a shield and safeguard against the tyranny and oppression of the Prince? What real and voluntary respect would they not have soon acquired, if, instead of feeding their audiences with froth, useless reveries, dreams, and the unavailing repetition of senseless and impossible miracles, their numerous preachers were vigorously to insist from the pulpit upon the beauty and necessity of charity, humanity, equity and justice, and if they were to second and support the rights of mankind by the mandates of Heaven, from whence they pretend to derive such unlimited authority? then no man would ever think of reproaching them with the exorbitancy of their power, their prerogatives, or riches, were they to make use of them
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for the good of society, and for the purpose of restraining the passions of those merciless tyrants, which no power on Earth has yet been able to keep within bounds: even the philosopher himself might be induced to forgive them their dreams, their fables, and the falsehood of their dogmas, did they but make use of them to terrify into a sense of their duty those Princes, whose ignorance, joined to the uncurbed force of all the noxious passions, keeps with regard to the knowledge of good government in a state of perpetual infancy.

But the uniform experience of all nations is more than sufficient to convince the greatest sceptic that such was never the disposition of the Priesthood, and that the Church has always found it the shortest and easiest road to riches, power and independence, by flattering the vices of the tyrant of the day or place, by joining the spiritual to the temporal power, and by trampling thus united upon the rights of the people, so that the interests of despised humanity have been basely sacrificed to the unbounded avarice and ambition of civil and ecclesiastical tyranny.

Such is the exact situation of this country at present, if we add to it the support of
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the meanest and most rampant race of Nobility that ever disgraced a Court, all concurring to the same end—the oppression of the subject and the elevation of the tyrant.

The poverty of the whole Nobility of this country can only be equalled by the meanness and pusillanimity of their dispositions, and the narrowness of their understandings, very unlike our Spanish Hidalgos in this, as in most other respects; where you shall find in many of the provinces several of the Nobility, who live like independent Gentlemen upon their own estates in the country, or in the capital of their province, appearing very seldom at Court, whereas here their whole employment is sneaking and cringing about Court, soliciting some favor either for themselves or their numerous needy dependents. No Nobleman here dare quit his native country, not for a night, much less to travel abroad, without the express leave of the Prince, which it has been always found exceedingly difficult to obtain; nor on the decease of any Duke, Marquis, or Count, can the son and heir assume his father's title, without first obtaining a new grace and grant of it from the Sovereign. It will, therefore,

therefore, readily appear how much such a set of Nobility, so totally dependent, for their very existence as such, on the nod of the Prince, will be disposed to stand by and support him in all his measures, however iniquitous, and consequently, with what impunity such a re-union of ecclesiastical, civil and military power may abuse, insult and tread upon the far more numerous and deserving part of the nation.

There is one circumstance I must earnestly caution you against, as I see by the many pamphlets published in London, on that side of the question, and carefully dispersed here, the public ear in England has been, and still continues to be grossly abused and imposed on. Would you believe it, that even this despicable Court finds wretched hirelings in London and other parts of the British dominions, who write in its defence, and attempt to palliate its insolence and oppression, by a thousand misrepresentations, falsehoods and absurdities, which are readily adopted and believed in Great Britain and Ireland, merely from want of better information of the nature of this Government and state of the country, and an Englishman will be apt to suppose, that both have at least some resemblance to those

of his own; but how egregiously will he find himself mistaken, when, according to truth, he is informed, that the whole people have no more share in the direction of Government, in enacting of laws, and in the regulating of agriculture and commerce, than they have in that of Russia or China; that the far greater part of them positively knows nothing of whatever is done in that respect; that every man has no other alternative but to yield a blind and ready obedience, in whatever concerns himself, to the decrees and laws of the Despot, as promulgated from time to time by his Secretaries of State. How would an Englishman or an Irishman, alive to all the feelings of civil liberty, tremble at reading the preamble of every new law published here? and which runs thus, ‘ *I the King, in virtue of my own certain knowledge, of my Royal will and pleasure, and of my full, supreme and arbitrary power, which I hold only of God, and for which I am accountable to no man on Earth, I do in consequence order and command, &c. &c.*’ With regard to agriculture, how will he be surprised when told that in this country there is one province alone capable of producing double the quantity of wheat necessary to supply the whole nation yearly, and yet, that at present, all the provinces of the
kingdom

kingdom together, do not produce the half of what is requisite for a year's subsistence, and that without the abundant supplies of wheat, rice and salt fish imported yearly, the inhabitants of the most fertile part of Europe must literally starve, for want of something to eat ; that so far are they from being overcharged with taxes, as in a commercial country like England, there are, comparatively speaking, no taxes here, for an excellent reason, because the people have no money wherewithal to pay them ; that the trade is either in the hands of Foreigners, of the Crown, or of a few monopolizing companies, who purchase from the Prince, at exorbitant rates, the noxious privilege of preventing the benefits of commerce from flowing as nearly as possible in an equality, through all the members of the community ; and finally, that without the Gold, which numbers of condemned and unfortunate wretches are continually tearing from the bowels of the Earth, and remitting from the new world to the old, it would be utterly impossible for Portugal to subsist for six months as a separate and independent state.

If there be any dependence to be placed on what I have observed in this country,

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and any truth in any of all the histories I have read of England, when groaning under the yoke of Papal tyranny and oppression, this nation exhibits nearly the same appearance now, which England must have done then. The beautiful province of old Luzitania lies prostrate in the silence of oppression and death, under the feet of pampered Priests and a few worthless and unprincipled Statesmen; the spirits of men are entirely broken and bastardized, particularly since the accession of the present Royal family, which was very far from being the case before the ruinous sixty years of the Spanish captivity. Every order of citizens, if we except the Church and the Court, groans under a variety of insolence and oppression, and the Priests, one and all, gravely assure the unfortunate and deluded people, that it is the hand of the Almighty, which, for their sins and tryal of their Christian patience, sends them those chastisements and sufferings, which in fact, the Priests themselves are the most active in bringing upon them; and thus the nation, confounded and deceived by the crafty misrepresentations of interested knaves, overlooks or mistakes the real and evident causes of its own misfortunes. Judge then what foundation the pamphleteering champions

pions on your side of the water must have for asserting, that the Portuguese have now formed the proper ideas of liberty, that they have opened their eyes, and are no more led blindfold by their Priests, as formerly. Good night.

LET-

L E T T E R XLIV.

Lisbon, 1779.

DEAR BROTHER,

I MUST request you to observe, that it is in consequence of your own desire, as expressed to me by your last letter, that I have limited my general observations to this little kingdom, without touching but by accident on the state of Spain, with which I have a more intimate personal acquaintance. I am sensible indeed, that it is very natural for a man like you, fixed in a commercial line, in the capital of the British empire, between which and Portugal there has so long existed a trade so lucrative to the former, to be inquisitive concerning the past and present state of the latter country.

In answer to your query concerning the state of Portugal continuing to subsist as an independent kingdom, or returning to the possession of the Crown of Spain, as
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appears most natural, I am not a little afraid such a discussion would carry me beyond my depth in politics, and that I should not be able to give you the necessary satisfaction on a point involving so many different considerations. The state of the great peninsula of Spain, at the time the province of Lusitania assumed the figure of a separate kingdom, fully accounts for the facility with which that event was brought about; but if you were to believe only half of what the gravest and most classical of the Portuguese historians assert, nothing less than a miracle was necessary to establish such an empire as is only to end with the world itself. Like the cruel and wicked Emperor Constantine the Great, their first King Affonso Henriques, at the battle of Ourique, where he destroyed so many myriads of Moors, had also the Labarum or the Cross displayed to him in the clouds, with the *In hoc signo vinces* annexed to it; and they boldly assert, by irrefragable proofs, taken from Holy Writ, that before the end of time, the Portuguese nation is to conquer and swallow up all others in itself. This positive prophecy may serve as a comfortable reflection to those who do not wish for a speedy dissolution of the present system of things, for according to
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every human appearance at present, no nation in Europe is at so great a distance from being in a situation to fulfil such a prediction; and this very circumstance, as usual in such cases, is exactly what makes the people more strenuous in believing it. However that may be, it is unquestionable that the spirit of chivalry which then possessed them, and afterwards their exploits in the East, evinced to the world that, as the times then went, they thought like men, and certainly fought like soldiers; and it is also certain, that their extensive conquests in Asia, together with the unfavourable circumstance of falling themselves under the Spanish yoke in Europe, was what chiefly paved the way for the rich possessions the other European nations now hold in that part of the world. The merciless and persecuting spirit of the Catholic religion, joined to the dark and sullen disposition of Philip the Second, the Demon of the South, and some of his successors, lost a number of fine provinces to the Crown of Spain; and the jealousy excited in the other powers of Europe, by the all-grasping spirit of conquest that Crown then exhibited, made them look on with indifference, or even countenance the Portuguese, when they afterwards shook off the
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the Spanish Government, owing to the mismanagement of the Conde Duque de Olivares, and to the forces of Spain being employed in other quarters; and the extravagant profits in trade which the Portuguese immediately after held out to the English, French and Dutch, engaged those nations, on different occasions, to support them in their successful revolt; and it is nothing but the political jealousy of the other nations, which still continues to preserve that of Portugal now as an independent kingdom.

But the spirit of the nation as men, and their courage as soldiers, are in the course of these last hundred years entirely evaporated, and the accession of the weak and bigoted family of Bragança has only served to depress their spirits, and add to their load of misery. Arts and industry, and every sort of modern improvement are still unknown among them as a nation, and are only practised by a few foreign adventurers, who avail themselves of the national indolence and ignorance; and their gold from South America only passes through their hands into those of more industrious countries, in return for the indispensable articles of food and raiment. Whenever they have

been pushed by their neighbours the Castilians, Foreign Officers and troops have been called in to fight their battles, and after doing so, have been as often rewarded with ingratitude, insult and neglect. An illiberal religion, consisting entirely in the practice of exterior usages and forms, in pageantry, idol worship, and a detestation of heretics, joined to the tremendous ideas their Priests convey to them, of a God armed with anger and vengeance against those delinquencies they themselves are pleased to construe into crimes, and the terrors of Purgatorial torments with which they surround the death-beds of their poor expiring penitents, has driven them to have recourse by prayers, alms, gifts and charities misplaced, to that endless number of supposed intercessors, with which their calendar is filled, and has transformed them into a vain, ceremonious, disingenuous, peevish, dastardly race; it has banished or suppressed every generous sentiment inconsistent with its very nature, and has left so much the more room for the exercise and exertions of the baser passions of jealousy, envy, backbiting, hatred and revenge, which are continually rankling in their breasts, and which are the cause of all those private murders and endless little dark cabals and intrigues, to be found

found in every sort of society in this country, and so little known almost any where else.

The ease with which Philip the Second of Spain took possession of this country, on the death of their Cardinal King Henry, does not appear to me half so surprising, as the difficulties the Spaniards have experienced, in their attempts to do the same thing frequently since; and it must be acknowledged that, among other causes, the independence of Portugal as a state, has been much owing to want of skill in their neighbours, and their being almost as indifferent soldiers as themselves; and yet, after comparing every thing, after visiting the frontiers of the two kingdoms, (as I have endeavoured to do with something of a critical eye) to me it appears that a successful invasion of Portugal from Spain, at least as circumstances at present stand, would be so exceedingly probable, or rather certain, that I find it very difficult to account for the miscarriage of their last attempt upon it in 1762. To say the Court of Spain had, at that time, no real intention of invading Portugal—that they should send an Army consisting of at least 30,000 men, with 10 or 12,000 French auxiliaries, and a large

Park of Artillery drawn by mules, collected at a great expence from Catalonia and the farthest parts of the kingdom—that they should be at the expence of establishing large magazines in different parts of the frontiers, and of assembling a numerous Army there from so many different quarters, and all this, only to make an idle parade for three or four months among rocks, goats and deserts, would be, I think, arraigning their prudence and judgment still more than by any other supposition—and yet, on the other hand, it is astonishing that with such a shadow of an Army to oppose them, they did not make some more effectual attempts to penetrate farther.

But the time seems to be now approaching for that event taking place effectually; to my certain knowledge the Prince of the Asturias, the present Heir of the Spanish monarchy has said, oftener than once, that he considers Portugal as a province wrested from him, which he will make it his business to re-unite to his other possessions. Without the smallest risk of compromising his character, I am of opinion, no military man, tolerably well acquainted with the circumstances on both sides, will hesitate a moment in pronouncing as to the astonishing
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ing facility of such an important conquest : With a covering fleet from Cadiz, off the Bar of Lisbon, the manœuvre of Philip the Second might be repeated with still greater ease, and ten thousand well disciplined troops, (more than necessary for the enterprise) could be brought with less trouble and expence from Cadiz in transports, than they could assemble on the land frontier, and enter by the province of Alentejo. A landing made good between Cascaes and St. Julian's, or between this last place and Lisbon, would meet with a very feeble resistance from four or five, or were they even twenty bad Regiments, absolutely without Officers, and would only encrease the confusion, and put the invaders in possession of a large straggling city, now entirely open on all quarters. The city of Porto would be carried with ease in the same manner; and whoever is master of these two emporiums, is absolutely in possession of the kingdom, which, without them, is not an object of any attention, and would soon after, with the enemy on both sides, fall of itself; and with a little military address, all this might be effected before the news of such an attempt could have almost time to reach any other country.

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The present enlightened state of the understandings of a number of individuals, especially among the younger part of the Spanish Nobility, and the late attempts, though unsuccessful, of the Court to shake off the yoke of the Clergy, and the detestable Inquisition, are however certain prefaces of victory on some future occasion, perhaps not very distant; in which case, the most auspicious event for the kingdom of Portugal, (all but the worthless Nobility and Clergy of it) would be to return under the dominion of Spain, when they would meet with a treatment from Spanish Governors and Superiors very different from what they formerly experienced. It would be the evident interest of a humane and sensible Ministry, to make this nation immediately perceive the effects of their change of masters, by alleviating the many oppressions they now labour under, by totally suppressing the power of infamous Churchmen, by making their overgrown estates contribute to the comfort and relief of the more distressed and useful members of the state, and by treating them all with that candour and liberality, so natural to Spaniards, which ought to be almost sufficient to make honest men of knaves, and converts of reprobates.

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A Spanish Gentleman is naturally of a generous and noble disposition, full of honor, integrity and good faith, and this even in spite of all the cruelty and insolence they have suffered from their infamous taskmasters of the Church: confounded and stupified as they have been, their senses hood-winked and bewildered, from the moment they open their eyes, by the ridiculous dogmas of an absurd religion, and by the charms of such an enchantment continued unbroken through life, all the unjustifiable and unmanly efforts of Priestcraft have not been sufficient entirely to extinguish in them the sense of what they owe to themselves as men, and to the rest of mankind as brethren. What then have we not reason to expect from such men, when once freed from those trammels in which their understandings have hitherto been so cruelly cramped and confined—when we shall see them spurning those hoary impostors with all that fire of indignation a generous mind naturally feels at having been so long and so grossly imposed on?

The effects of ecclesiastical despotism have been much more fatal to this unhappy country, where the spirits of men
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are entirely subjected and reduced by it, and like the air we breathe, which, when it has lost its elastic force, becomes immediately putrid and corrupted, so the general manners here are nothing but a congregate of mean, low and sordid vices, nearly unknown among persons of distinction in Spain; and so fixed are the Clergy in their despotic rule over the people, whom they crush and trample on, that this very people would be the first to revenge their cause on whoever should attempt to injure them !

Upon the whole, therefore, it is evident, that abstracting from the little partial confined views and ideas of interested politicians, every friend to humanity is deeply concerned in wishing the kingdom of Portugal may again take its place as the richest and best of the Spanish provinces; and, as it is much more than probable there will be an end of the power of the Church in Spain in the course of the next century, so the reasonable and well grounded hopes such a prospect affords of a victory and conquest over the insolence and tyranny of bigotry and superstition, in favour of the just rights and liberties of mankind, must raise and dilate every feeling heart with
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the purest sort of joy and disinterested exultation on seeing the times approach, when by far the largest and finest peninsula in Europe, after groaning and suffering for so many ages under every species of cruelty and insult, the merciless and unrelenting hand of religious error and phrenzy could excogitate and inflict, is now, at last, about to become the happiest and most fortunate.

I must here close my correspondence with you from this country—the new married couples are returned from Cintra, and having already repaid the numerous visits of congratulation they received from almost every person of consequence here, natives as well as foreigners, we are all anxious to embark, as we shall do this very night on board the same packet which conveys this letter, which however will come to your hand long before we reach the Capital of England, as I hinted to you in a former epistle. The young Portuguese student John Carlos, is ready to break his heart on the occasion of our departure, and is about to return to prosecute his studies at the University of Coimbra. Lord Freeman dreaded that we should have been detained by Colonel Priolet, who had neglected to apply

for his dismissal from this service till he returned from Cintra, but, strange to tell, and contrary to all precedent and their common dilatory method of doing all sort of business, the moment he applied for it, he got it, as it seems they had it ready for him, and it is even drawn up in terms and expressions highly creditable for Mr. Priolet, so desirous are the Priests to get rid of him, nor is he less delighted to embrace so favorable an opportunity of abandoning such a service, where his sincere and only regret is that of leaving behind him some worthy Officers of his own country, whose circumstances do not permit them to follow his example.

Farewell.

THE END.



E R R A T A.

Among other mistakes there may be of the Press, the Reader is requested to correct the following :

VOL. I.

Page 15, line 28, for Oſtonoba read Cuniftorgis.

P. 247, l. 7, f. ni r. in.

P. 282, l. 13, f. St. John de Foſcoa, r. St. John da Peſqueira.

VOL. II.

P. 78, l. 25, f. the r. their.—Line 26, f. their r. the.

P. 180, l. 27, f. Calcavilla r. Calcavella.

P. 192, l. 14, f. immediatdly r. immediately.

P. 229, l. 26, f. never go r. never to go.





